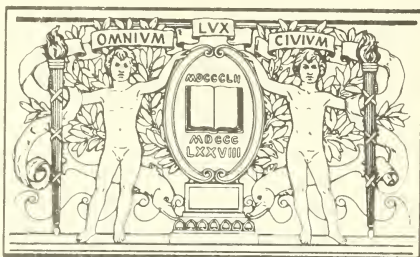


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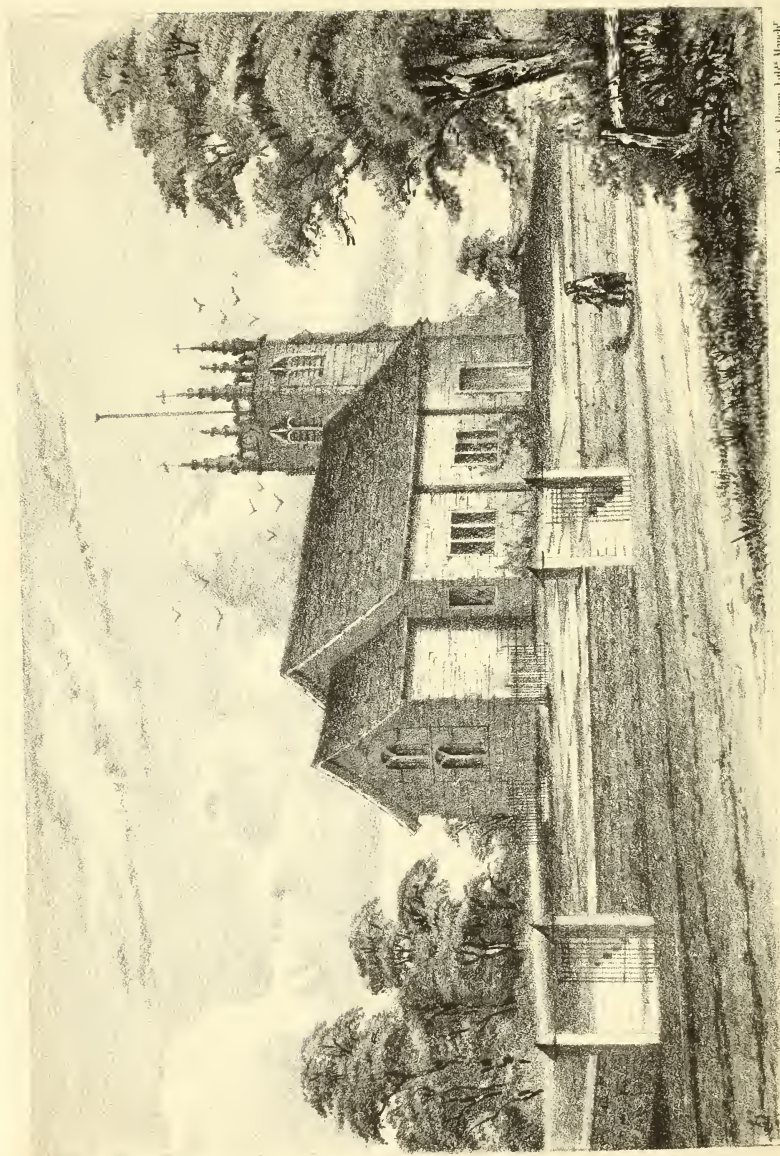
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Nidsbury Chapel,

IN 1620.

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A HISTORY
OF THE
Ancient (Chapels) of (Didsbury and
Chorlton,)²

IN MANCHESTER PARISH,

INCLUDING

SKETCHES OF THE TOWNSHIPS OF DIDSBURY, WITHINGTON, BURNAGE,
HEATON NORRIS, REDDISH, LEVENSHULME, AND
CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY :

TOGETHER WITH

NOTICES OF THE MORE ANCIENT LOCAL FAMILIES, AND PARTICULARS
RELATING TO THE DESCENT OF THEIR ESTATES.

*2415.15

BY THE REV. JOHN BOOKER, M.A., F.S.A.,

V. 42

OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
CURATE OF PRESTWICH.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages, in continuation of what has been already written, bring to a close the history of one half of the more ancient Chapels in Manchester parish. Four of these Chapels have now appeared, — Blackley, Denton, Didsbury and Chorlton; and the same number yet remain to be described, — Birch, Gorton, Newton and Stretford.

Speaking of the parish of Manchester in the aggregate, its history, civil and ecclesiastical, has been long ago written. The object proposed by the publication of the present series is to view the parish more in detail, regarding each of the Chapels as the immediate centre round which the adjacent groups of population congregate, erected for their special convenience, and the place of their habitual resort.

If there be less of incident in the annals of a rural population within the circumscribed limits of a township than in those of a large parish, there is nevertheless, in minute points of history, sufficient to justify their being collected and their memory perpetuated. This few will deny, and the encouragement the author has received as his labours

have advanced affords abundant evidence that the undertaking meets with general acceptance.

He avails himself of this opportunity of thanking those friends who, by their ready offers of assistance, have made him their debtor. His acknowledgments are specially due to the Rev. WILLIAM JOHN KIDD, Rector of Didsbury; the Rev. GEORGE JOHN PICCOPE M.A., Curate of Brindle near Chorley; the Rev. Canon RAINES M.A. F.S.A., Incumbent of Milnrow near Rochdale; and WILLIAM LANGTON Esq. of Manchester. His best thanks are also due to Mr. JAMES CROSTON of Manchester, once more his associate in literary undertakings, for the pictorial embellishments which impart so much interest to this volume.

PRESTWICH,

APRIL 1857.

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DIDSBURY PAROCHIAL CHAPEL.

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT PAROCHIAL CHAPEL OF DIDSBURY.



THE township of Didsbury is situated about five miles and a half south of Manchester and three miles west of Stockport. It is bounded on the north by Withington; on the south by the river Mersey, which there divides the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Burnage and Heaton Norris; and on the west by Chorlton-cum-Hardy and the Mersey, which again separates it from the adjacent county of Chester. It is the most southerly township in the parish of Manchester. Its area has been computed by Messrs. Johnson at 1516 acres; the Tithe Commissioners in the Census Returns of 1851 estimate it 1527 acres; the Ordnance Survey, 1552a. 2r. 21p.; and Rickman, in the Census Returns of 1831, 1560 acres. It lies on the north bank of the river, at a point where the stream is sufficiently shallow to admit of passengers crossing from Didsbury to Northenden; the river and the lands adjacent to the ford receiving anciently the name of Didisford—an appellation still to be traced after the lapse of nearly six hundred years in Ford Bank. Its orthography, like that of other proper names in early times, was very irregular and uncertain; and it is found variously written Dedisbur', Didesbur', Diddesbir', Diddesburie, Diddesberye, Dyddesbury, Dyddysburye, Dyddusburye, Duddesbury, Ditesbery, Dadsbury, Dizbury, &c., the latter syllable of the name signifying

a fortress, or fortified town, of which the Saxon warrior, whose name the earlier syllables express, was the proprietor or chief.

In the 33 Henry III. (1248) Matthew de Hathersage was found in possession of the manor of Hathersage in Derbyshire, and also of lands in Didsbury, Withington, &c., in the county of Lancaster.¹ These lands were held by subinfeudation from Robert de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, who in 1260 did homage to the King and received the seizin of his estates, which amounted to £3000 per annum, including almost the entire lands of South Lancashire. The coheireses of Hathersage married Goushill of Barlborough and Longford of Longford, both within the county of Derby, about the latter end of the reign of Henry III. By Deed dated the eve of St. John the Baptist, in the 44 Henry III. (1259), we find that a partition of lands was then made between Sir Nigel de Longford and Dame Maud Goushill, an apportionment, doubtless, of the Hathersage estates, which had now descended to the female line by the recent death of Matthew de Hathersage, the last heir male of the family.²

In the succeeding reign, that of Edward I., we find John de Longeford claiming by inheritance free-warren &c. in the above recited lands, and producing in support of his claim a charter granted to his great grandfather, Matthew de Hathersage, by his then Majesty King Henry III. An oath being taken of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the claim, it was decided that the aforesaid John and his ancestors have been entitled to the privileges contended for from the date of the charter submitted for their inspection.³ After the disgrace of Robert de Ferrars

(1) *Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum*, p. 66.

(2) *Foundations of Manchester*, vol. iii. p. 125.

(3) Joh'es de Langeford p'fert cartam d'ni H. Reg' p'ris d'ni Reg' nūc dat' anno regni sui t'cesimo t'cio [1248] que testa' q'd d'ns H. Rex cōcessit cuidam Matheo de Hathershegg p'avo ip'ius Joh'is & h'edibus suis lib'am warennā in om'ib' d'niciis t'ris suis man'ior' suor' de Hathershegg, Barleburgg, Kynwaldesmers' & Holan' in com' Derby & man'ior' suor' de Witinton & Diddesbir' in com' Lane' ita q'd nullus intret t'ras illas ad fugand' in eis aut ad aliquod capiendū quod ad warennā p'tineat sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius Mathei & h'edū suor' sup' forisfact'am d'ni Reg' decem librar'.

and the confiscation of his estates, Didsbury, as a part of his Lancashire possessions, was granted to the family of Grelle, from whom it passed on the decease of the last Baron of that name in 1313 to the Wests, Lords De la Warre.

In a Survey of the extent of the manor of Manchester made in 1322 Didsbury is included in the lower bailiwick of the barony, and is required to contribute towards the maintenance of the lord's bailiff and his subordinates when occupied in the discharge of their duties in the oversight of the manor; allusion is also made therein to a fishery in the Mersey to the middle of the river from Grimesbotham up to Ditesbery Moor, worth 6d. per annum. From a Rental of Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, May 1st 1473, it appears that Nicholas Langforth Knt. holds the demesne of Whithington and Diddesbury by the service of one knight's fee of the said lord, a yearly rent of 9s.; and for castle-ward (a tax upon those residing within a certain distance of any castle towards the maintenance of such as watch and ward the castle) 10s.

This relation between the superior lord and his tenant was found to continue uninterrupted throughout the brief seignory of John Lacy, who in 1578, after a seventeen years' possession of the manor of Manchester, transferred it to Sir Nicholas Mosley, citizen and alderman of London, a member of a family long located in the neighbourhood, who thus added to his influence in Didsbury as a landed proprietor by becoming also lord of the manor, of which Didsbury was a member.

In a Deed executed sometime between the years 1260 and

Precepit eciam d'nus Rex p' se & h'edibus suis q^d p'd'cus Matheus & h'edes sui in p'petuū h'eant lib'am warennā in om'ibꝫ d'nicis t'ris suis man'ior' p'dicor' ita q^d null's intret illas ad fugandū in eis aut ad aliquod capiend' q^d ad warennam p'tineat sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius Mathei et h'edum suor' sup' forisfact'am d'ni Reg' decem libr' sic' p'dictum est. Et dic q^d Oliverus p' & an'cessor suus obiit in seis^a de p'dicta warennā. Et dicit q^d ip'e eundē statum continuavit &c. set inq'rat' quo modo usus est &c. Jur' d'nt sup' sacr'm suū q^d p'dictus Joh'es et an'cessores sui a temp'e confec'onis p'dicte carte debito modo usi sunt warennā suā in p'dictis man'is Jō ip'e ad p'sens inde sine die &c. — *Placita de Quo Warranto Rot.*, p. 377.

1280, relating to the Slade Hall estate in Rusholme, we have a conveyance on the part of Thomas son of Geoffrey, son of Luke of Manchester, of lands in Diddisford in this township; the conveyance is to Jordan his brother, and the lands are described as given to him by Geoffrey his father.

Meanwhile, by gradual subdivision, the lands of the township passed into the possession of numerous smaller proprietors.

In the 4 Edward VI. (1550) John Kempe and Winifred his wife prefer a claim which is resisted by William Penkythe clerk, parson of Manchester, to a parcel of land called Arnewayes-tottham, and the house thereon and two burgages, the whole situated in Wythynton, Dyddesburye and Stockport.

From the Inquisition p.m. of Sir Edward Warren, eight years later, it appears that he died seized of the manor of Woodplumpton &c., and of lands &c. in Didesbur'. He was son and heir of Laurence Warren Esq. and Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Piers Legh of Lyme Knt., and was knighted at Leith in 1544. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Booth Knt.

In the 33 Elizabeth (1590) Alexander Barlow Esq., the representative of an ancient family in the adjacent township of Chorlton, contested with Sir Ralph Longford Knt. certain privileges connected with the digging of marl and peat on the moors of Barlow and Didsbury. He was also lessee in 1566 of the tithes of the township, which he held from the rapacious Warden Herle. Other proprietors about this time were John Pickering and Thomas Lockwood, who in 1582 held lands in Didsbury as grantees of Nicholas Longford; William Bassett, who in 1588 pleaded in establishment of his claim to a messuage and lands in Withington manor against Dennis Lache, John Cooper and others, and in resistance of their encroachment on Dyddesbury Moor; Lawrence Goodier, who appeared in 1596 in the Duchy Court as defendant in an action brought against him as the wrongful possessor of a messuage and lands in the township, and for intrusion on certain land called Sandland and other specified lands in Didsbury; he died in 1608. His Will was proved at Chester July 4th

in that year. He names his wife Margaret, his daughter Joan, his brother Henry, and his grandson Henry.

Three years later we find Robert Goodier a plaintiff in the same Court against Rowland Mosley Esq., the point at issue between the two being an alleged intrusion on lands in Moss Green in Withington manor.

On the 27th of September 1604 Robert Goodyear, described as of Manchester gent. complainant, exhibited his bill in Chancery against Thomas Sorocold, &c. : That whereas one Ralph Sorocold was possessed of goods &c. in the county of Lancaster, by his last Will dated September, 35 Elizabeth (1592), he bequeathed the same to his children, ten in number, and appointed his wife Katharine and Thomas Sorocold his son and heir executors, the said children being under age except Thomas, who proved the Will. About six years after, she married one Thomas Goodyere the complainant's father, after which, the said Thomas her son took the government of the said children. The said Thomas Sorocold agreed to renounce his executorship to the said Thomas Goodyere, who made an Indenture dated 16th August, 39 Elizabeth (1596), between the said Thomas Goodyere and Katharine his then wife of the first part; John Sorocold, one of the children of the said Ralph Sorocold the said testator, and John Bradshaw and Margaret his wife, daughter of the said Ralph, and Ellen Sorocold, daughter of the said Ralph, of the second part; and the said Thomas Sorocold the said other executor, and Katharine Sorocold, Ann, William, Mary, Ralph, Elizabeth and Sarah, younger children of the said Ralph, and Edmund Prestwich Esq., Robert Hide of Denton, Richard Midgeley, Richard ffuxe and William Wood, friends and guardians of the said younger children during their minority, of the third part. Katharine Goodyere died and then her husband Thomas Goodyere.

On the 13th of February 1605-6 their son Robert Goodyere and Elizabeth his wife appeared before the Consistory Court at Chester, and confessed that they were present at the clandestine marriage of Biron Culcheth with Ellen Goodiere.

In 1578 Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. prosecuted Ralph Woods and Hugh Gynney at Lancaster for trespass on Didsbury Moor; it does not however appear that the Traffords possessed any greater interest in Didsbury than that of participating in the rights, advantages and profits of the waste lands in the township. Of the family of Gynney or Yannes, long resident in the township, many scattered and incidental allusions have reached us. In 1673 one Mr. Yannes, minister of some adjacent cure, preached at Didsbury Chapel, as appears from the Churchwardens' accounts of that period; and eight years after, Samuel Yannis of Didsbury gent. marries Margaret Mainwaring of Warford. An early Inquisition p.m. of Ingelramus de Gynes, dated in the reign of Edward II., assigns to him lands &c. in Whittington, Asheton and Lancaster; from the similarity in name he is presumed to be of the same family.

From the Inquisition p.m. of Sir Robert Lovell Knt., in the 44 Elizabeth (1601), we find him seized at his death of lands in Didsburie, Chorleton, Withington and Streitford. Sir Robert Lovell was the eldest son of Gregory Lovell of Merton in the county of Surrey Esq., Cofferer to the Queen's Household, by his second wife Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Green.

The family of Twyford occupied at an early period a degree of prominence in the township in the ranks of substantial yeomen. John Twyford of Didsbury, who describes himself as a yeoman, makes his Will in January 1622. He names his wife Alice, his sons John, Robert, Edward, Richard and Daniel, and his daughters Anne and Ellen. He appoints his wife and his son John to execute his Will, and "would intreate my wor^{ll} M^{rs} Anne Mosley to be supervisor of the same." He held two other tenements in the township on lease, besides that whereon he resided. The Inventory of his goods and chattels taken at his death amounted to £171 16s. 8d.

In 1646 Richard Twyford of Didsbury yeoman, an adherent to the royalist cause, compounded for his estate by the payment of

£44, as also did Robert Twyford gent., whose estate was charged with the payment of £45 15s. 4d. Margaret, wife of Robert Twyford of Didsbury gent., was sister of John Radcliffe of Manchester gent., whose Will was proved at Chester in 1647. The Rev. Robert Twyford, curate of Didsbury in 1726, and his son and successor, who died in 1795, were doubtless members of the same family.

Didsbury seems to have warmly espoused the cause of Charles I. in striking contrast to most of the other townships in Manchester parish, influenced probably by the counsels and example of Sir Edward Mosley of the Hough, at whose house in Alport the royalist general, Lord Strange, was lodged and entertained during the memorable siege of Manchester in 1642. In the following year, on the retreat of the royalist party from Wigan after their surrender of that town, we learn that a slight skirmish ensued at Didsbury, partaking more of the character of a personal encounter. It is thus spoken of in a contemporary narrative: "A certain tall young gentleman was constrained to force his way at Didsbury near Manchester, when accompanying the retreat, through the midst of forty clubmen, who laid at him with their clubs and yet could not bring him to the dust." This young man has never been satisfactorily identified; a rumour prevailed at the time that it was Charles II., but this was speedily dissipated.¹

In addition to the Twyfords the name of Robert Trevillian of Didsbury yeoman also occurs in the annals of the township as having paid in 1646 the sum of £50 for the redemption of his estate; and earlier, in 1642, while yet the contest between the King and the Parliament was undecided, we find the grave yard of the Chapel selected as the burial place of several royalist officers who had lost their lives in the siege. In 1745 too, in further evidence of the like sympathy, the adherents of the proscribed Stuarts met near Didsbury, and in the Register Book of the Chapel, under the date December 10th 1745, the following entry

(¹) *Civil War Tracts*, Chetham series, p. 309.

occurs: "A poor man buried at Didsbury, found dead in Heaton when y^e rebels past."

In the 13 Elizabeth (1570) one Thomas Rudd entered an action at Lancaster against Nicholas Longford and Adam Blomeley in relation to a messuage and appurtenances in Didsbury, called the "Broad Oke," at that time in his occupation, but whether as owner or lessee does not appear. In 1655 John Rudd resided at the Broad Oak, and was a ratepayer in the township; and it is worthy of remark that there has been a continuous occupation of the same premises by the Rudd family for upwards of three hundred years, the present tenant Mr. John Rudd now holding it under the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden.

About the commencement of the last century a family named Broome first settled in the township as stewards or law agents to Sir John Bland; they stood also in a like relation to the Barlows of Barlow in Chorlton, and for several generations practised as attorneys in Manchester, purchasing from time to time such lands in Didsbury and the neighbourhood as the improvidence of the two successive baronets, the Blands, compelled them to dispose of. William Broome of Didsbury gent. married sometime before March 24th 1749 Elizabeth, youngest sister of Captain James Dawson, the hero of Shenstone's ballad of "Jemmy Dawson;" their eldest son and heir was William Broome of Didsbury Esq., a Justice of the Peace for the county of Lancaster, who died without issue in 1810.¹ The heiress married into the Fielden family, and the estates are now vested in the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden.

Didsbury not only derived its name from one of its former inhabitants, but it also lent its name to a family long resident within its limits and perhaps not yet extinct. William de Didsbury witnesses the transfer of Birch Hall and its demesne from the Hathersage family to Matthew de Birch about the middle of the thirteenth century, and the name again occurs in a Deed of the same period relating to the conveyance of certain lands in

(1) *Cheshire and Lancashire Historical Collector*, vol. ii. p. 29.

that part of the township anciently known as Diddisford. John Didsburie makes his Will August 28th 1623, desiring to be buried "in the church or chappell yord at Didsburie." He leaves his house and premises to his wife and eldest son, "she to have all the romes on the north end of the house and my son the rest upon the south end, and to be both of them at one fyre and to fynd the fyre betwixt them." At a later period one John Didsbury was Chapelwarden of Didsbury in 1701, and the name of James Didsbury appears in the list in 1746.

Towards the east of the township and lying north-east of the village of Didsbury is the White Hall estate, in the reign of Elizabeth held on lease by Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who by his Will devised the same to his eldest son Rowland, subject however to an annual payment of £20 to Anthony Mosley testator's second son, and the further sum of £6 13s. 4d. to Margaret, only child of the said Anthony Mosley. The name of the then owner is not given. It is now the property of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh Esq.

Parr in this township, or, as it has been designated by modern tautology, Parr's Wood, was known by this name before the year 1587. Its signification is a high or hilly place, a grove or wood, a hill covered with wood, from the Anglo-Saxon *bearo*; other etymologists connect it with the verb *beran* (to bear, to bear fruit), and take it to mean specially a wood that supplied mast for fattening swine.

At the east of the township, where the Mersey forms the boundary-line, is a tract of low land called, from its position, "Didsbury Eea;" the word *ea* in Anglo-Saxon signifying water. The same designation is used in the neighbouring township of Chorlton to indicate the low level of certain land bordering on the river, the name Chorlton in that instance being substituted for Didsbury.

In 1845 the number of landowners in the township was fifty-two, of whom the following were the chief: —

	A.	R.	P.
The Rev. Robert Mosley Fielding.....	516	3	8
James Heald Esq.	184	3	34
Hesketh Lloyd Bamford Hesketh Esq.....	125	0	29
The Executors of the late Joseph Birley Esq.	63	1	0
George Withington Esq.....	51	1	12
John Atwood Beever Esq.	49	3	19
Samuel Hampson Esq.	44	0	22
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.	38	0	32
John Daniel Souchay, Esq.....	31	2	38
Mr. Thomas Baxter	30	2	27
Mr. Matthew Brundrett	30	1	5
Mr. Nathan Slater	24	1	25
Trustees of the Audenshaw School	21	1	39
Mr. Thomas Worthington	20	1	3
Trustees of the Wesleyan College	9	0	16
Trustees of the Didsbury School	7	2	12
Churchwardens of Didsbury	3	1	0
Roads and Waste, including the River Mersey	58	1	16

Assuming the area of the township to be 1474 acres, it was thus divided: arable land, 700 acres; meadow and pasture land, 769 acres; buildings, 5 acres.

In the village of Didsbury is located one of the two theological institutions established by the Wesleyans for the training of students in preparation for the ministry; (the other is at Richmond, in Surrey.) It originated in the commemoration of the centenary of Wesleyan Methodism, and the cost of its erection was defrayed out of the centenary fund, a subscription of nearly a quarter of a million sterling raised in 1839.

In 1840 ten acres of land were purchased in Didsbury, at the rate of £200 per acre, and suitable buildings were erected thereon at a further outlay of about £18,000. There was a handsome stone mansion on the estate when purchased,—the residence at

one time of the late Colonel Parker ; this was retained, and it now forms the centre of the pile. Two retiring wings were added, the whole forming three sides of a quadrangle. Accommodation is provided for the governor and his family, and forty students, together with a library and lecture and class rooms. Separated from the college is the chapel, a neat brick building in the pointed style, containing sittings for about three hundred persons, intended not only for the institution but also for the inhabitants of the village. On either side of the chapel are the residences of the theological and classical tutors. The college was opened September 22nd 1842, when the Liturgy of the Church of England was read and a sermon preached by the President of the Conference. The cost of its maintenance is about £2,500 per annum.

The Wesleyans were not without their religious services at Didsbury before the erection of the chapel just adverted to. Upwards of thirty years ago they occupied a large room over a wheelwright's shop for the purposes of public worship, in which also they conducted a Sunday school. This room having become too small a larger one was built about sixteen years since, which is yet devoted to its original use.

The earliest Population Returns for Didsbury are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits but 84 houses, tenanted by 86 families or 499 individuals. Of these, two hundred and nine were under the age of 15 ; sixty-five above 50 ; fifteen above 60 ; two above 70 ; seven above 80 ; and one exceeding 90 years.

In 1801 the township contained 116 houses and 619 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 738 ; in 1821 to 933 ; houses 159, families 172, of whom 51 were engaged in agriculture, 107 in manufactures, and 14 otherwise employed ; in 1831 there were 3 houses uninhabited and 181 occupied by 187 families, of whom 81 were engaged in agriculture, 83 in manufactures, and 23 otherwise, — total population 1067 ; in 1841 there were 4 empty houses, 2 building, and 234 occupied by a population of 1248 ; in 1851 there were 274 houses tenanted, 4 empty, and 6 building, — total population 1449.

In 1655, 61 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, amongst whom were Mr. Robert Twyford, Edward Chorleton, James Birch, Colonel Birch, Mrs. Goodyeare, Sir Edward Mosley, Widow Mosley, William Wood (parish clerk), his widow, Thomas Blomeley (Bankes), Thomas Birch, Henry Ridinge, Thomas Blomeley alias Kings, Mr. Levenshulme, John Rudd of the Oak, &c. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 383, and the total amount of rates collected £787 19s. 10d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor was in the latter year £11,911 15s. 4d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township as assessed to the land tax was £245 9s. 2d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county rate £3,933; in 1829, £6,318; in 1841, £9,662; and in 1853 £9,780. Didsbury is in the polling district of Manchester, and in 1854 contained 62 county voters. There were in the township in 1854 three public-houses and three beerhouses.

List of Roads belonging to the township of Didsbury, describing their beginnings and endings, with the measurement thereof liable to be repaired by statute duty, made November 7th 1795:—

1. Highway Turnpike Road. Beginning at Cheadle Bridge and ending at a stone set up on this side Withington Bridge; length 1 mile 2 quarters 433 yards.
2. Boulton Wood Gate Lane. Beginning at the Three Lane Ends on the turnpike road, and ending at a stone set in the hedge on this side Barlow's Gate; length 426 yards.
3. Milngate Lane. Beginning at Thomas Whitelegg's on the turnpike road, continued over Gatley Ford, and ending at the commencement of Watry Lane; length 1 mile 311 yards.
4. Stenner Lane. Beginning at Duke's Hill, continued over Northen Ford, and ending immediately over a culvert in King's Lane; length 3 quarters 7 yards.
5. Car Brow Lane. Beginning at Crabb Croft's Gate and ending at the Alder's Fender, near the Braddiley; length 1 quarter 246 yards.

6. Barlow Moor Lane. Beginning at the Grey Horse public-house and ending at a fence across the road behind Samuel Mycock's house ; length 1 mile 1 quarter 88 yards.
7. Fogg Lane, Beginning at the fifth mile stone from Manchester and ending at a nicked oak near to Barcroft Gate in Burnage ; length 2 quarters 125 yards.

The above are all the roads belonging to the township of Didsbury liable to be repaired with statute duty and composition ; all other roads are repaired by tenure or occupation.

	M.	Q.	Y.
Total Turnpike Road	1	2	433
Total Bye Roads	4	1	323
<hr/>			
Total miles.....	6	0	316
<hr/>			

JOHN RUDD, }
THOS. WOOD, } Surveyors.

Didsbury Chapel is the most ancient of all the chapels in the parish of Manchester, having been founded, as it is supposed, about the year 1235. At first it was probably nothing more than a private oratory limited to the use of the lord of the manor or other influential persons who planned its erection, but increasing in importance and size as permission was extended to the tenantry and others to worship there until at length in 1352 it became a parochial chapel. "In this year," according to Hollingworth, "a commission was granted by Roger de Norbury, Bishop of Lichfield, for the consecration of the chapel-yard of Didsbury within the parish of Manchester, in order to the burial of such as died of the pestilence in that hamlet and in neighbouring hamlets in the chapel-yard there, because of their distance from the Parish Church of Manchester."¹ There is a local tradition that the ma-

¹ *Chronicles of Manchester*, p. 36. On the 30th of November 1823 an additional plot of land adjoining the chapel-yard was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester for the interment of the dead. It was purchased of Robert Fielden Esq. after the rate

terials used in the erection of the first structure were the remains of an old church pulled down in St. Mary's Gate, Manchester, brought in the first instance to Withington Green and afterwards removed to Didsbury; but as this is a claim shared also in common with the halls of Ordsall, Clayton and Trafford, which were said to have been in part built from the old materials of Manchester Church, it is little to be relied on except so far as possibly justifying the inference that in material at least the early chapel of Didsbury resembled the early church of Manchester, both being composed of transverse beams of wood filled in with lath and plaster, a style of building very generally adopted in the more ancient chapels within Manchester parish, of which the only instance now remaining is the chapel of Denton.

In 1620 Didsbury Chapel was entirely rebuilt of stone, a tower being now probably first added. No faculty seems to have been obtained for this rebuilding, nor can any deed be found relating to the consecration of the earlier chapel which had given place to this, or of the chapel-yard solemnly set apart in 1352, notwithstanding a careful search in the Episcopal Registries of York, Lichfield and Chester, and also in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Richmond.

The style of architecture is that known as the Debased, thus denominated from the general inferiority of design as compared with the style which it immediately succeeded. The plan comprised a nave 45 feet by 34 feet 6 inches internal admeasurement, a chancel 24 feet by 24 feet, and a tower at the western end, the details throughout being extremely plain. The nave was divided on either side into three bays, two of these being filled with plain square-headed windows, exhibiting an almost total absence of

of 1½d. the yard, or eighteen years' purchase, £50 being paid in addition, the estimated value of two small cottages thereon; the cost was defrayed by a subscription of £360 and a church-rate of 6d. in the pound. Amongst those who assisted by their subscriptions were Wilbraham Egerton Esq. £50, Robert Parker Esq. £40, Robert Fielden Esq. £20, Joseph Birley Esq. £20, Francis Philips Esq. £20, William Wood M.D. £20, Rev. Joseph Newton £20, Thomas Mottram Esq. £20, Messrs. Thomas and James Borron £20.

ornamentation, the third bay towards the extreme west on the north and south sides constituting the principal entrances to the church. The chancel was lighted by two triplet windows of singularly inelegant design, placed one over the other, the centre light arch-headed, and rising above the lateral. The roof of both the nave and chancel was of more acute pitch than is usually found in buildings of this period, and extended some distance beyond the outer surface of the walls in what are termed dripping eaves. In 1770 the chancel was rebuilt, and in 1791 galleries were erected on the north and south sides of the nave, a gallery having been previously erected at the west end, — particulars of which successive alterations will be seen in the abstracts of faculties elsewhere given. In 1855 the north-east, north-west, and south-east entrance doors were closed, and one large entrance to the church made through the tower at the west end. The church underwent a thorough restoration, and considerable alterations were made both in the internal and external appearance of it. In these alterations, though of a somewhat earlier style than the edifice itself, the details are correct in design, and in perfect keeping with the style adopted. The outer walls have been re-cased with stone, the old square windows removed, and their place supplied by others chiefly pointed, and Tudor-arched, divided by mullions into three lights, transomed, and the heads filled with perpendicular tracery of good design, the principal as well as the subordinate lights cinquefoiled, and the whole surrounded by a hood-moulding finished with a plain return. Buttresses are placed at intervals against the walls, those flanking the eastern gable and at the junction of the nave with the chancel being carried up to the extreme edge of the parapet, and terminating in octagonal pinnacles crocketed at the angles. The windows of the chancel are of two and three lights, square-headed and divided horizontally by a transom, the lights foliated in the head. The east end of the chancel is lighted by a large Tudor-arched window of five lights, cinquefoiled, the mullions carried vertically through to the head, and transomed. This window is filled with richly stained glass by Wailes of Newcastle. In the

centre light of the upper tier is a figure of the Saviour, and in the side lights are figures of the four Evangelists, with the name in black-letter characters at the foot of each. In the lower range the centre light contains a representation of the crucifixion, with the two Maries at the foot of the cross. In the side lights are figures of four of the apostles — Sanctus Petrus, Sanctus Paulus, Sanctus Jacobus major, Sanctus Thaddeus. Beneath the centre light is the inscription in black-letter: — “This window presented by John Moss, Joseph Bull, and William Hobbs;” and below this, cut in the masonry, + Anno Salutis MDCCCLVI. W. J. Kidd, clerk rector; John Moss, Joseph Bull, ch. wds.

Surmounting the apex of the eastern gable is a floriated cross. The tower is of three stories, supported by diagonal buttresses of five stages, with sloped set-offs. The basement story now forms the principal entrance to the church; the doorway has a depressed four-centred arch within a square hood-moulding, finished with a plain return, and the spandrels filled with carved foliage; the jambs consist of a single round and hollow moulding, continued round the head without a break. Above this and separated from it by a moulding is the room appropriated to the ringers, lighted on the west side by a Tudor-arched window of four lights, cinque-foiled, and the head filled with perpendicular tracery. This window as well as the doorway of the tower have been added during the alterations already noticed. The upper story contains the bells, and is lighted on each side by a plain pointed window of two lights fitted with louvre-boards. The parapet is embattled, pierced with small semicircular openings, and beneath is a hollow cornice moulding. Surmounting each angle is a crocketed pinnacle; and smaller pinnacles of the same character rise from the middle of each parapet. On the east side of the tower is the date 1620, and the letters W. R., probably the initials of the builder, and on a stone on the north side is the inscription: —

S^r EM : FOVN
AM. WID : DERS

EM : ESQ : S^r GB : K <> &...
PATRON : BARONET *

..... 16
AN O 20

A clock is placed on the east side of the tower, immediately under the parapet.

From a ground plan of the chapel, as it appeared about this time, we find the nave divided into a centre and side aisles, the whole filled with pews or benches; an avenue running from west to east divided the centre into two compartments; the pulpit and reading desk occupy the space of two or three benches in the northern division of the central compartment, within two yards of the chancel. The two entrances, north-west and south-west, were placed immediately opposite each other, and an avenue communicated across the chapel from door to door. At the eastern extremity of the north aisle where the nave and chancel join is a clear space of nine feet by six feet, marked the "Barlow Chappel," the occasional burial place of the Barlows of Barlow, an influential Roman Catholic family residing in the adjacent township of Chorlton, whose more customary place of interment however was the Collegiate Church of Manchester. Before the Reformation it is probable that this private chapel in Didsbury Church was more generally availed of by the family both for the purposes of divine service and also of sepulture. The chancel, twenty-four feet square, contained on the south side three pews or benches in continuation of those in the nave, and of corresponding size. In the south-east corner is a space nine feet square, marked on the plan "Mosley's Chaſel," occupying more than a third of the east wall and pushing the communion table from its usual central position towards the opposite corner. The entrance to the chancel was by a door penetrating the south wall between the Mosley Chapel and the three pews already alluded to. It is interesting thus to determine the precise apportionment to the Mosleys and Barlows in the Didsbury Chapel of old time, especially since there exists nothing even traditional respecting it. In the case of the former, it will be seen that the monuments erected to the memory of the various members of the family were all placed within the precincts of their own private chapel. The other benches bear no names,

nor is any place assigned to the font. In the interior of the church, as it now appears, the aisles are separated from the nave on either side by three semicircular arches supported by plain cylindrical shafts. Before the year 1770 the aisles did not extend beyond the nave, but at that time the chancel was enlarged and the aisles continued the entire length of the building; from the chancel they are separated on either side by two depressed four-centred arches resting upon octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases. The roof of the nave is of timber-work, open to the ridge, and of plain design, the frame-work consisting of horizontal tie-beams resting upon vertical wall-pieces and strengthened beneath by curved bracing-ribs springing from plain corbels; king-posts rise from the centre of each tie-beam and are carried up to the ridge-piece; these, as also the struts which support the purlins and principal rafters, have their edges chamfered. The chancel roof is also of timber-work, but differing somewhat in design from that of the nave; the walls are connected by bracing-ribs springing from corbels supporting collars on which the purlins rest. The chancel is separated from the nave by an obtuse angled arch supported by corbels, and underneath this are placed the pulpit and reading desk, the former of oak enriched with carving in the Arabesque style, and probably of the same date as the building itself.

The particulars of successive alterations under the influence of which during the past century the chapel has lost many of its original features, may be gleaned from the following abstracts of Faculties:

1751, December 9th. Faculty granted to William Twyford clerk, curate of Didsbury, James Bayley Esq. the younger and Richard Broome and William Broome gentlemen, owners of certain messuages and estates within the said chapelry, to erect at their own expenses a loft or gallery at the west end of the chapel, in length thirty-four feet, in breadth or depth from the west wall eastwards thirteen feet seven inches, with a convenient staircase

to lead thereto from the outside of and through the west end wall of the said chapel if that may safely be done. To assign and dispose of the pews therein to themselves and such other inhabitants of or owners of messuages and estates within the said chapelry as stand in need of seats or pews, and will pay for them not only their rateable shares of the whole expense in and about the erection of the said gallery, but also certain reasonable annual rents as shall be agreed upon amongst them, to be paid to the minister of the said chapel for the time being.

1757, September 15th. Faculty granted to the Rev. William Twyford clerk, curate of the chapel of Didsbury, to erect a gallery on the south side of the aforesaid chapel, in length sixteen feet, in breadth nine feet; to dispose of the seats therein to the inhabitants of the said chapelry for the profit and advantage of the said William Twyford and his successors, curates of the said chapel.

1770, August 10th. Faculty to rebuild the chancel.

Samuel Peploe clerk, Doctor of Laws, Vicar General, to our beloved in Christ Anne Bland spinster, the patroness of the chapel of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster and diocese of Chester, and William Broome Esq. of Didsbury aforesaid, the owner and proprietor of divers messuages and tenements and lands situate in the chapelry of Didsbury aforesaid, greeting: Whereas upon representation made to us that the chancel of the chapel of Didsbury aforesaid was very old, ruinous and decayed, and that the pews, stalls and seats in the said chapel and chancel were very old, irregular and decayed, and not conveniently capable of holding the inhabitants; and that the said Anne Bland and William Broome were desirous to take down and remove the said old chancel and the pews, stalls and seats therein, and to build a larger chancel with a gallery or galleries, and new, regular and uniform seats or pews therein, in the room of the said old chancel and on part of the yard of the said chapel, by taking in eight feet on the north and also eight feet on the south side thereof, so as

to make the said intended new chancel of the same breadth or width with the nave or body of the said chapel, and to sell and dispose of the new pews and seats in the said intended new chancel at reasonable rates to and among the inhabitants of the said chapelry, reserving a certain chief-rent or sum of money to be paid yearly for each of those said new seats and pews to the minister or curate of the said chapel for the time being to and for his own use and benefit, and to build a vestry on the south side of the communion table and a staircase and stairs on the north side thereof to lead to the said gallery or galleries, and also to remove and take away the said old pews, stalls and seats in the said chapel, and in the room thereof to build new, handsome and convenient pews or seats all of one decent, regular and uniform order, and that the same might be set to the inhabitants of the said chapelry at certain reasonable rents, to be paid also to the minister or curate of the said chapel yearly to and for his own use, better support, and maintenance,—We did emit a general citation upon Sunday the 23 day of July last for all persons professing to have a right or interest in the said chapel or chancel to appear before us or our lawful Surrogate upon Thursday the 27 day of July aforesaid; and whereas no person appearing to show cause to the contrary, therefore we the said Vicar General grant unto you the said Anne Bland and William Broome our commission and authority to take down and remove the old chancel and the pews, stalls and seats therein, and to build a larger and more convenient and handsomer chancel with a gallery or galleries, and to set and let such new pews or seats to the inhabitants of the said chapelry at certain reasonable rents or sums of money, to be paid and made payable to the minister or curate of the said chapel yearly to and for his own use and better support and maintenance, for the use of themselves and their families, all others excluded without their leave first had and obtained to use the same; willing and requiring you that so soon as you shall have fully executed the commission you return to us a full certificate thereof, together with a chart or

plan of the seats or pews built anew in the said chancel, chapel and gallery or galleries respectively, and the names of the respective inhabitants to whom you have allotted and disposed of the same, and the respective rents or sums payable for the same to the minister or curate of the said chapel for the time being, by virtue of your allotment or disposition thereof, in order for our future approbation and confirmation thereof, and together also with these presents. Dated at Chester the 10 day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

H. SPEED,

Dep. Reg^r.

The next step was the erection of a north gallery from the front of the west gallery to the east window, and of a south gallery extending from Mr. Twyford's gallery to the east window of the chancel—both erected at the same time, during the incumbency of the Rev. John Newton, about twenty years after the rebuilding of the chancel, and both erected without Faculty.

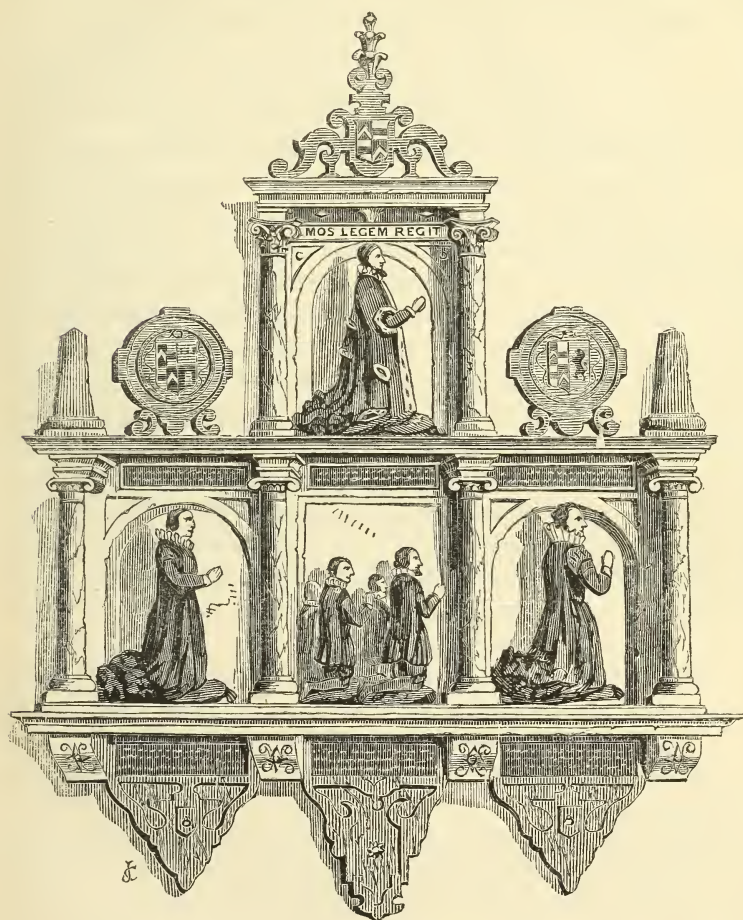
1841, July 1st. Faculty granted to the Rev. William John Kidd, incumbent, John Thorniley and John Ogden, wardens, Joseph Birley, George Withington, Robert Gladstone, Hugh Birley junr., and Hartley Packer Gisborne, pew-owners and leypayers of the said chapelry; to pull down the north and south side walls from the tower to the chancel, which are now three feet and a half thick, and to rebuild them of a thickness of two feet only; and to allot to every person now in possession of a pew a pew of the same dimensions (if practicable), liable to the same rent and other payments as those given in exchange, the rent to be increased or diminished in proportion to the smaller or larger space given; also to appropriate the pews of the side aisle to the poor; a pew each to be provided (not subject to any annual rent or payment) for the minister, wardens, singers, and the font. It was estimated that the present accommodation was limited to five hundred sittings, none of which were free, and it was expected that

such alterations as now proposed would secure about two hundred and fifty additional sittings.

1855, July 31st. Faculty granted to the Rev. William John Kidd clerk, rector of Didsbury, Joseph Bull and John Moss churchwardens; to remove the north-east and south-east staircases to galleries; to close the north-east and south-east entrance doors, and to erect additional pews on the area now occupied by them; to make one large entrance to the church through the tower at the west end, carrying staircases to the galleries from the west end inside the tower; to remove a portion of three pews in the south gallery, and of two pews in the north gallery, so as to obtain a passage along each gallery, and to widen the open space over the communion table; to case the outside walls of the church with stone, the tower excepted; to raise the roof over the north and south galleries, and to improve the ventilation, which will include some alteration in the windows; to remove two monuments from the eastern wall, and to place them, one on the south pillar and the other on the north pillar of the chancel arch; to remove the font from under the tower to the south-west corner of the body of the church near the entrance porch. The alterations sanctioned by the above abstracted faculty were carried into effect (with the exception of the clause relating to the monuments, — these were allowed to remain on the east wall) at a cost of £1,600.

The church contains several monuments, but with the exception of that to the memory of Sir Nicholas Mosley they do not call for any particular notice. The monument in question is attached to the east wall in that part of the chancel which was formerly known as the Mosley Chapel. It is a heavy columnar structure of two stages; the lower, of three compartments divided by Ionic columns; the upper, of one compartment flanked by columns supporting a frieze or entablature, which is surmounted by an ornament in the heavy Tudor style, enclosing a heraldic shield blazoning the family arms. The centre compartment of the lower stage is square in form, framed in mouldings; but the two lateral compartments in this, and the upper stage are circular-headed arches with decorated

architraves in colours. On the cornice of the lower stage, over each lateral compartment, is placed a large oval, like a glass mirror,



the frame of reddish marble, the inside coloured blue, each charged with the arms of Sir Nicholas, the one shield impaling those of his first wife, —arg. a lion rampant gu.; the other those of his

second, — gu. a chess-rook arg. on a chief arg. three roses gu. The upper arch is filled with a full-length figure of Sir Nicholas himself in his robes of office as Lord Mayor of London, a scarlet cloak edged with ermine; he wears a black skull-cap bordered with white; and looks a grave and reverend man with bushy beard. The two lateral arches of the lower stage also contain a figure each: that to the spectator's left, of a lady in long blue cloak, white petticoat and Elizabethan ruff, kneeling on a crimson cushion, her hands joined and raised in prayer; that to the spectator's right of a lady in long blue cloak and ruff, kneeling and praying; these representing the two wives of Sir Nicholas. The centre compartment of this stage represents four male figures kneeling; the eldest, of mature years, bearded; the other three, youths of different ages. All the figures in the monument present the right profile. The monument is chiefly of marble and Derbyshire marble, spar and alabaster. The two outer columns of the lower stage are of blue dove marble, and on the cornice above them are placed two pyramidal obelisk-like ornaments, on feet. The whole monument appears to rest on four wall-brackets. The four central columns, above and below, are of Derbyshire spar. There are several inscriptions on the entablatures, and on the tablets beneath the three lower compartments; they are as follow: —

“This is in memory of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt. sometyme Lord Mayor of London, who dyed the 12 day of December, 1612, of y^e age of 85, and lyeth here interred.”

“Margaret Whitbroke, his 1st wife, by whom he had 6 sons and 2 daughters.”

“Elizabeth, his second wife, at whose cost this monument was erected, dyed without issue.”

Other inscriptions of a later date follow: —

1. “Rowland Mosley Esq. sonne and heyre of Sr. Nicholas, first married Anne Houghton, by whom he had issue a son

and daughter : After, the aforesaid Rowland married Anne Sutton, one of the co-heiresses of Sutton, by whom he had issue Edward, his son and heyre, and Ann his daughter, yet living ; and he died 23d. Feby. 1616, and lieth here interred."

2. "Anthony Mosley his second son yet living."

3. "Sir Edward Mosley Knt. his youngest son, Att^y. Gen^l. of the Dūchy of Lancaster now living at Rolleston in Staffordshire."

At the east end of the chancel near to Sir Nicholas Mosley's monument is a tablet to the memory of the Dowager Lady Ann Bland, with this inscription : —

Here lyes y^e Body of Ann Lady Dowager BLAND
Sole Daughter & Heiress of S^R EDWARD MOSLEY
Of Hulme Knt. — She married S^R IOHN BLAND
Of Kippax Park in y^e County of York Bart.
To whom She brought a plentiful Estate
In this Neighbourhood & by Whom She had
A numerous Issue, though None of Them surviv'd Her
Except a Daughter MERIELL, married to
HILDEBRAND IACOB ESQ.
& SIR IOHN BLAND of Kippax Park and Hulme Bart.
Who erected This Monument in Memory of
One of the best of Women, Anno 1736.

Surmounting the inscription is a lozenge bearing the arms of Bland, — Ar. on a bend sa. three pheons of the field, in chief the badge of Ulster, — impaling quarterly for Mosley, 1 and 4 sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg. : 2 and 3, or, a fess between three eagles displayed sa. — On an escutcheon of pretence sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg.

On the same wall, at the north side of the chancel window, is a monument to the memory of Sir John Bland : —

Near this
 Monument is interred
 the Body of Sr. John Bland
 of Kippax Park in y^e County of York
 Barrt. who died Oct^{br}. 25. 1715 Aged 52.
 He married Ann the Daughter and sole
 Heiress of Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme
 near Manchester in this County Knight by
 whom he had Issue nine Children viz. Jane,
 Ann, Meriel, Elizabeth, Mosley y^e first son,
 Mosley y^e second, John y^e third (who succeed-
 ed his father in Honour and Estate) & Edward
 the fourth; the other three died Infants and
 were buried here, as was Frances another
 Daughter, who died Aug^t the 31st. 1712 in y^e
 17th year of her age.
 Also John, son of Thomas Davison of Blak-
 iston in y^e County of Durham Esq. by y^e aforesd.
 Ann daughter to S^r. John Bland.

Memoriæ
 Optimi Mariti et Patris dicta Anna Vidua mœstissima
 Hoc Monumentum
 Posuit
 Et Luctui et Cultui
 Sacrum.

On the base of this same monument is inscribed : — “ Near this
 Place also lye y^e Bodies of y^e abovenamed S^r. Edward Mosley
 Knight, and Meriel his wife; He was y^e second son of Oswald
 Mosley of Ancoats in this County, Esq. & died July 25. 1695 aged
 77. And she was the Daughter of Richard Saltonstall late of
 Huntwick in y^e County of York Esq. & died July y^e 8. 1697 aged
 63. In y^e same Place is also buried Sr. Edward Mosley of Hough-
 end in this County Barrt. who married Katharine, Daughter of
 William Lord Gray of Wark & dyeing without Issue left his
 Estate to y^e aforesaid Sir Edward Mosley.’ ”

In addition to the inscription is a shield charged with the arms of Bland, impaling those of Mosley.

A plain marble slab in the chancel bears the following :

S. M

of

Robert Fielden Esq.

many years a resident in this parish

& an active Magistrate of the Counties of Lancaster & Chester

who departed this life on the 6th day of September 1830,

aged 69 years.

Also of Ann his wife

eldest daughter of Sir John Parker Mosley

of Rolleston Park in the County of Stafford Bart.

who departed this life on the 27th day of March 1810,

aged 47 years.

Also Sarah his second wife who died on 23rd day of Jan^y 1850, aged 84.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord :

Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest
from their labours ; and their works do follow them.”

14 Chap. Rev. 13 ver.

Superadded to the inscription is a shield bearing the arms of Fielden : arg. on a fess azure three lozenges or, impaling (for Mosley) sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg. Crest : a blackbird sitting upon an oak slip acorned ppr.

Another monument commemorates a former incumbent of the chapel :

In memory of

the Reverend John Newton M.A.

Patron & Incumbent of this Church

where he officiated for more than 15 years

and was beloved by a numerous congregation.

He died September 16, 1807

in the 46th year of his age.

Also

Elizabeth Newton

Widow of the late Rev^d John Newton

who died March 23. 1832

in the 69th year of her age.

Also their Son

the Rev^d Joseph Newton M.A.

who died April 11th 1832

in the 36th year of his age.

On the north wall is a plain marble tablet thus inscribed :

Near this place

are interred the Remains of

JAMES BAYLEY of Gorton, who

departed this life June 10. 1778

aged 45 years.

Also ESTHER his Wife who

departed this life Dec^r 7. 1807

aged 80 years.

Near to the above is another tablet bearing a shield charged with the arms of Briarly (in colours), borne quarterly; 1 and 4, or a cross potent gu.; 2 and 3, azure on a chevron between three stags or, three roses (or cinquefoils) gu.; impaling, arg. a chevron between three cross crosslets sa. Crest: a lamb and flag. Motto: Crux Coronæ Fulcrum. The slab is inscribed :

Near this place

lies interred the Remains

of Tho^s Briarly Gentⁿ

who departed

this life Sep^r 5. 1776

aged 63.

On the same wall is a large square tablet of white marble bearing the following inscription :

Omnes una manet nox
Et calcanda semel via lethi. Hor.

Sacred to the Memory of
Will^m Broome Gent.

Whose remains were interr'd
March 30. 1781. aged 68 Years.

Also Elizabeth his wife
interred Feb^r 6. 1764.

James Broome their Second Son
interred Aug^t 13. 1800
aged 42 years.

John Broome their youngest Son
interred Feb^r 18. 1787
aged 27 Years.

William Broome Esq. their eldest
Son, one of his Majesty's justices of
the Peace for this County; he died
sincerely regretted Aug^t 13th

1810 aged 55 years.

Also

the remains of
Mary Broome relict
of the above William Broome Esq.
She died Jan^r 18. 1815
aged 59 Years.

—— Reader, whose eyes this marble view,
Learn to be wise ; nor fleeting hopes pursue.
Life is an ev'ning breeze, a murmuring breath,
That blows till Sunset, then grows calm in death.

There is one other monument on the south wall to the memory of Elizabeth, only child of Thomas and Elizabeth Radford, who died May 7. 1833.

The chapel of Didsbury, as already stated, is the next most ancient ecclesiastical foundation in Manchester parish after the Collegiate Church, or Cathedral, as it is now called. It differed from all the other chapels in the parish, with *perhaps* the single exception of Newton, in having been from very early times invested with a certain independent jurisdiction, owning indeed subordination to the parent church of Manchester, but with a freedom from control not appertaining to the rest of the chapels, which were but chapels of ease,—a district being assigned to it in

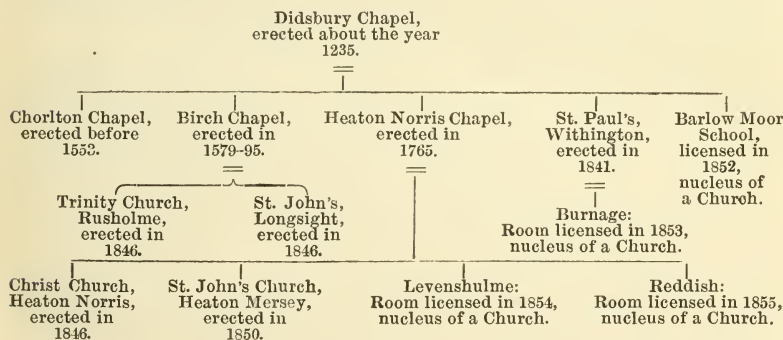
which the resident curate had exclusive authority; being in fact, though a part of the parish of Manchester, a parochial chapel, or reputed parish of itself.

It is dedicated to St. James, as far as can now be ascertained, and is thus styled in the latest Faculty obtained for its restoration, though by the Rev. Canon Raines it has been committed to the guardianship of St. John. One argument in favour of the earlier supposition is founded on the fact that the village rush-bearing is held on the 5th of August, which answers to the 25th of July old style, or St. James's Day, and the wake is held the Sunday following and the two or three succeeding days, — a coincidence not accidental, but illustrative, of that close connexion which is found always to subsist between that annual festival and the patron saint's day, village wakes being the anniversary of the consecration of the church, night to which the wakes are held, the church itself uniformly receiving consecration on the day of the saint to whom it was dedicated. If this conjecture be well-founded, it is not a little remarkable that three other of the more ancient chapels in Manchester parish are dedicated to the same saint, namely Birch, Gorton and Denton.

Its subordination to Manchester Church is shewn in the payment of tithe to the Warden and Fellows as rectors of the entire parish. In 1701 the tithes of Didsbury township were leased by the Warden and Fellows to Mr. Thomas Wood for the sum of £33 10s. per annum. Withington and Burnage, in the chapelry district, are classed together, and the tithes from the two townships, leased to Mr. W. Birch, produced to the Warden and Fellows in that year £32; the tithes of Heaton Norris (in part within the chapelry limits) were leased to Mr. H. Hulme for £50 per annum; — making a total of £115 10s. In 1848 the rent-charge payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester in lieu of tithes over the same area was, — Didsbury, £149 (besides 17s. 3d. payable to the Rev. R. M. Mosley the impropriator); Burnage, £72 10s.; Withington, £115 (and £20 9s. to the impropriator); and Heaton Norris, £286 10s.; — in all, £644 6s. 3d.

In 1573 injunctions were given to the Warden of Manchester by the Archbishop of York and the Queen's Commissioners for causes ecclesiastical within the province of York, respecting the more strict residence of the Warden and Fellows and diligent and constant preaching every Sunday in the church of Manchester, or in one of the chapels of Stretford, Chorlton, Didsbury, Gorton, Denton, Newton or Blackley.¹

The more ancient limits of the district assigned to the chapel were doubtless of wide extent, embracing the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, part of Heaton Norris, Rusholme and Chorlton; and it is interesting to trace the gradual development of the parochial system in Didsbury, as shewn by the repeated subdivisions into which that extensive district has been partitioned in order to meet the requirements of a gradually increasing population. Didsbury Chapel is venerable not only from its antiquity but also as the progenitor of descendants so many in number and so prosperous :



The population within the limits of the parochial chapelry, numbering in 1704 about 540 souls, now exceeds 19,000.

In 1650 an Inquisition was taken at Manchester before certain Commissioners under the great seal of England. The object contemplated by the commission was the readjustment of ecclesi-

¹ Hollingworth's *Chronicles of Manchester*, p. 83.

astical districts. It was recommended that Heaton Norris having no parsonage or vicarage, nor any spiritual benefice, and being seven miles distant from the Parish Church of Manchester, should be severed from Didsbury and united with Reddish, and that these two should be formed into a separate parish, and that a church should be erected for their accommodation: this was not then carried into effect. The Commissioners assert moreover that "in the township of Wythington are the four chapels of Diddesbury, Birch, Chorleton and Denton, which chapels are fit to be made a distinct parish;"¹—in this assertion they are so far incorrect as to confound the word *township* with *manor*; not one of the four chapels indicated is within the limits of the township, though all situated within the manor of Withington.

The erection of the chapels of Chorlton and Birch, the latter in the reign of Elizabeth and the former some years earlier, had diminished considerably the extent of territory over which Didsbury Chapel and its resident Curate exercised jurisdiction; though perhaps of Birch it may be affirmed that it was never more than a private chapel appended to the hall of that name.

In 1658 the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, and part of Heaton Norris, comprised the whole district included within the limits of the parochial chapelry of Didsbury, which disposition continued unchanged till the year 1765, when the suggestion of the parliamentary commission of 1650 was acted on, and Heaton Norris severed from Didsbury. No further alteration took place for nearly a hundred years. In 1841 the severance of Withington and Burnage was effected, when Didsbury township alone remained of the once far-spreading ecclesiastical district appertaining to this ancient chapel.

The present boundaries are as follows: A line commencing at the eastern end of Fog Lane and proceeding westerly along the middle of that lane as far as the road leading to Manchester from Didsbury, crossing over the road into Lapwing Hall Lane and proceeding up the middle of Lapwing Hall Lane as far as Burton

¹ *Lamb. MSS.* fo. 196.

Farm Lane; thence southerly along the middle of that lane to the boundary of the township of Didsbury; thence following westerly the boundary-line separating the township of Didsbury from the township of Withington until they reach the township of Chorlton-cum-Hardy; thence proceeding in a southerly and westerly, again southerly and easterly direction, along the boundary-line separating the township of Didsbury from the township of Chorlton-cum-Hardy to the point where they meet the boundary-line of the parish of Northenden, Cheshire; thence continued along the boundary of the township of Didsbury and the said parish of Northenden until it meets the township of Heaton Norris; thence northerly as far as the township of Burnage at Fog Lane, where the said line commenced, including the two detached portions of Burnage which lie one to the east and one to the west of Burnage Lane and south of Fog Lane.

In 1850 Didsbury was returned as a district chapelry under 59 George III. cap. 134. The chapel was stated to contain five hundred sittings, three hundred and eighty of which were appropriated and one hundred and twenty free.

It seems probable that at no distant time a further abridgment of the ancient chapelry limits will be made. The schoolroom at Barlow Moor has been licensed for divine service, and it is expected that a church will ultimately be built.

The earliest approach towards an endowment fund for Didsbury Chapel we find at the close of the sixteenth century. It consisted of "stock" contributed at different periods and by different individuals, the interest of which was applied to the support of a curate, and though of small amount this constituted the only fixed and settled income of the resident minister, aided perhaps at times, as exigency might suggest, by voluntary offerings on the part of the inhabitants. In 1613 John Twyford the chapelwarden and Robert Brooke deposed that for the years 1610 and 1611 it was "agreed by the consent of the better sort of the inhabitants of the Chapelry, that Mr. Rycroft should have £17 a year for his wages in serving that cure, to be gathered amongst the inhabitants and

made out of the stock of the chapel, to be gathered and payed to the churchwardens, besides his provender oats." But small as was this settled endowment, it was rendered scarcely less precarious than the voluntary offerings which occasionally served to augment it, by reason of the bad faith of those to whom the money had been lent; for in the year 1652 there was a formal presentment made of all "such persons as have in their hands sums of money paid towards the maintenance of a preaching minister at Didsbury, for which they do neither pay the interest nor renew the securities, though they have been called upon by us (the chapelwardens) thereunto." This list includes the names of no fewer than fourteen persons who had out at interest chapel-stock in sums varying from ten shillings to ten pounds, and for which they were rendering no acknowledgment to the curate or chapelwardens.

The p'sentment of the Wardens of Didsburie of such p'sons as have in their hands such sōmes of money as have been p'sons, lost, towards the maintenance of a preaching minister at Didsbury, for w^{ch} they doe neither paye the interest nor renew the securities thoe they have been called uppon by us thereunto.

Imprimis

1. John Blomeley alias Bancks, hath in his hand thirtie shillings, for w^{ch} wee know not when hee payd any interest. Edward Blomeley of Didsbury is bound wth him for the
2. Item. Laurence Walker of Didsburie gent. hath in his hand fiftie shillings, the interest whereof hee hath not payd many yeares, ffor w^{ch} James Birch th'elder of Little-heath and Edward Chorleton th'elder of Milgate in Didsburie is bounde wth him.
3. Itm. Alexander Walker th'elder of Didsburie hath in his hands fiftie shillings, the interest whereof hee hath not payd many yeares, neither will renew his securities, his form^r securitie being dead, viz^t George Chorleton of Eaton Norris.

4. Itm. Thomas Holme of Didsburie hath in his hands thirtie shillings, for w^{ch} hee hath not payd the interest for many yeares, nor doth give new securitie, his old suertie Thomas being dead.
5. Itm. William Whiteleg deceased of Ecchill in y^e county of Chester had in his hands shillings, noe interest hath been payd for the same dead, but his securitie William Blomeley ats
6. It. Edward Chorleton th^relder of the Mill in Didsburie hath in his hands for w^{ch} hee hath payd noe interest many yeares; his suretie was Na . . . Woode of Didsburie whoe is dead, his execut^r is Alexand^r Wood
7. It. An Moseley of Didsbury vid. Administrat^r of Edmund Moseley decesed hath in her hands tenne shillings, for w^{ch} noe interest payd many yeares.
8. It. Thomas Woode of Didsburie decesed had in his hand ten shillings; no body was bound wth him; his grandchild William Woode of Didsburie enjoys his liveing, but for ought wee knowe hee had neither execut^r nor administrat^r.
9. It. William Byrch of Lu^me decesed had in his hand twenty shillings, William Byrch of Burnag decesed was bound wth him; wee knowe not the execut^{rs} of either, onely wee are informed that William Byrch of the Lu^me and James Byrch his sonnes enjoyed what was their ffather's.
10. It. Mr. John Davenport sometyne [? minister] of Didsburye had in his hands ten pounds, for w^{ch} William of Didsbury deceased and Robert Birch of Didsbury yet alive were
11. It. Richard Byrch of the Tythe-barn in Wythington hath in his hands ten shillings, for w^{ch} noe interest hath been payd many yeares; his suretie William Chorleton of Didsburie is dead.
12. It. John Hampson of Eaton Norris and William Davie of Wythington had in their hands ffive pownes but

his wife is living and maryed to Alexander C . . . ; William Davie, as we understand, lives at

13. } There are twoe other bonds Shalercross and Thomas
 14. } It. Shalercross of 32^{li} . . . ; both dyed poore wthout adminis-
 trat^{rs}. Th'other from James Barlow whoe is dead, and
 whose Barlow deceased likewise; his executrix was
 his daughter Mary Barlow

R . . .

Frauncis Moseley
 Wardens of Didsburye.

Two years earlier, in 1650, the endowment was found to consist of a house and tenement for six years unexpired worth £10 per annum, and £48 in stock, the interest of which was available for the curate.

In 1606 Rowland Mosley of Hough End, Didsbury, Esq., eldest son of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., made a further provision for its endowment:—By an Indenture made the 12 day of August in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, that is to say of England, France and Ireland the fourth, and of Scotland the fortieth, between Rowland Mosley of the Hough within the county of Lancaster Esquire on the one part, and George Chorlton son of Edward Chorlton of the Hough End within the said county yeoman, John Heywood of Withington yeoman, Robert Walker son of Alexander Walker of Didsbury yeoman, Alexander Wood son of Alexander Wood of Didsbury yeoman, George Brooke son of Thomas Brooke of Heaton Wood Green yeoman, Robert Hughes son of Thomas Hughes of Didsbury yeoman, James Reddish of Fallowfield yeoman, and Richard Hampson of Heaton Wood Green yeoman, of the other part, — It was witnessed That the said Rowland Mosley for the considerations hereafter expressed had set to farm, let, and by these presents doth set and to farm let to them the said George Chorlton &c. and their assigns all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in Didsbury aforesaid, lying, being and adjoining unto the chapel of Didsbury, now in the

tenure, holding or occupation of Thomas Pickering, together with all houses, buildings, orchards, gardens, fields &c., and all profits, easements and advantages to the said messuage belonging (the great timber standing on the premises only excepted), to have and to hold the said messuage &c. to them the said George Chorlton &c. for and during the whole term of four score years, the same to commence from and immediately after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering now tenant of the premises for the term of his natural life, to the uses, intents and purposes that they the said George Chorlton &c. shall and will convert and employ the said messuage and premises for the only good, profit, benefit and behoof of such parson, minister, vicar, curate or incumbent of the said chapel of Didsbury for the time being as shall remain, continue and be parson by and with the consent and good-liking of the said Rowland Mosley and his heirs, lords of the manor of Witlington, and of them the said George Chorlton &c. : And also to the intent and purpose that during the time of vacation, cession and avoidance of the said vicar, minister and curate, or after the said dislike or dis-assent of the greater number of the persons before named of any such to be vicar, minister or curate there, then they the said persons shall stand possessed of the premises to the use of the successor that shall after be parson by and with the liking and consent of the greater number of the persons before named, to whom the said George Chorlton &c. shall be accountable at the oversight and view of the said Rowland Mosley, — yielding and paying therefor yearly nevertheless to the said Rowland Mosley and his heirs from and after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering, for and during the said term, the yearly rent of twelve pence, and also yielding and paying after the decease of the parson of the said chapel of Didsbury the best beast or good upon the premises for and in the name of a heriot. The deed next provides for the election of trustees as vacancies occur, the same to be nominated by Rowland Mosley Esq. and his heirs, lords of the manor of Witlington. And it is likewise agreed for the consideration aforesaid by and among all the said persons to this present, and

by and with the full consent of all the residents of and in the said manor, of the said Rowland Mosley his heirs and assigns and all other that shall claim to be lords and owners of the said manor of Withington from and after the commencement of the said lease to begin and be in possession, that they and each of them shall be discharged of all and singular yearly payments of sums of money given or to be paid or given at any time after to the parson of the said chapel of Didsbury for the time being.

The deed is signed by the several trustees named, and their subscription witnessed by Nicholas Mosley, Rowland Mosley, Edward Chorlton, Richard Chorlton and George Chorlton.

Within six years of the execution of this deed Pickering sold his life-interest in the estate to Sir Nicholas Mosley, and leaving England with the intention of settling in Ireland was drowned, as it is believed, on the voyage; he was never more heard of. A question therefore arose, difficult of solution, as to the period at which the reversion of the tenement accrued to the chapel; and since nothing authentic was known of Pickering's death, and the transfer of the estate had been made contingent on that event, much difference of opinion prevailed as to the period also of its restitution to the family of Mosley. In 1695 Sir John Bland succeeded to the Mosley property, and about ten years afterwards he claimed Pickering's tenement as his own by reason of the determination of the eighty years specified in the lease. His claim was thought premature and was resisted, and a long correspondence ensued in which the Bishop of Chester (Gastrell) and Lady Ann Bland were involved. The result is not given, but the chapel does not appear to have derived any further benefit.

The first letter, dated "Didsbury, August 18th 1720," was written by the curate of the chapel, the Rev. Thomas Wright, and was addressed, "For the Rt. Rev. Father in God, Francis Lord Bishop of Chester." It is as follows:—

My Lord,

In obedience to your command I have here sent my testimony signed by my neighbouring clergymen, who have known

my life and conversation ever since I was ordained, and I hope I shall always appear to your lordship to be the person I am there represented. According to your lordship's command I have all along taken Mr. Shrigley's advice. Upon my last return from Chester Mr. Shrigley advised me not to enter on Didsbury till my Lady Bland's passion was a little abated, whereupon I omitted for three Sundays. On Monday was sevensnight Mr. Broome, steward to the Lady Bland, told me that their counsel advised them not to shew your lordship any more writings, nor give any further account, and told me I might take the chapel with what little belonged to it, and that your lordship might shew for the land if you would have it. On Wednesday was sevensnight my Lady Bland told Mr. Birch of Birch that she had nothing at all to say against me; she bore me no ill-will, and for her part she could be as easy with me as any other person, and if I entered at Didsbury I should meet with no opposition from her; but withal she must assert her right as to the land. Mr. Shrigley being acquainted of these things, and having heard from your lordship that no satisfaction was given, he advised me to take possession of Didsbury, and accordingly I did on Sunday morning last, and had peaceable entrance; there shewed my licensc, and discharged my duty. I officiated in the morning at Didsbury, in the afternoon at Birch, and shall so proceed until I have directions from your lordship. As to the piece of ground called the Ogre, we have several evidences to prove it was in the Church. I have sent the deposition of one man only, who was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of Housend [Hough's End] nigh Didsbury, who gave this Ogre to the Church and gave his estate to the Lady Bland's father, who was a relation at some distance, and the Lady Bland's father took it from the Church again.

Deposition of Edward Worsley: — August 16, 1720. Then Edward Worsley of Withington declared, that when he was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of the Housend he often heard his master, Sir Edward, say that he had given the Ogre to the chapel of Didsbury, but never heard him mention that he had given it for any limitation

of time, but for ever; and he is ready to make oath of the same. Declared in the presence of Thomas Wright.

Mr. Broome has declared that my Lady has nothing at all to shew for the Ogre, and it is certain that she is at this time much afraid. This next is a copy of a receipt which Mr. Broome gave the tenant when he paid his rent for the church land after Sir John Bland had taken it from the Church:—“Dec. 4, 1710. Received of Titus Hulme ten pounds in full for rent of the church lands due to Sir John Bland at Michaelmas last, by me William Broom.”—I have several more dated before this, but worded after the same manner. I have nothing more material at present. I shall take all due care to observe your lordship’s commands in this affair, and whatever lies in the power of your lordship’s most obedient and dutiful son,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

The next letter is from the same to the same, written about two months later, dated “Didsbury, October 14, 1720,” and addressed to the Bishop “at Christ Church in Oxford.” It is as follows:—

My Lord,

With humble submission I beg leave to trouble your lordship again with our affairs at Didsbury. I have here sent my Lady Bland’s letter to me [this is not now with the correspondence] with a short account of some proceedings, that your lordship may see how I am treated by my Lady Bland, her steward, and her tenants. Her ladyship withholds her own contribution and has forbid all her tenants for contributing under pain of her displeasure, and by her steward Broome’s daily bullying them they dare neither contribute nor come to hear me, but some go to other churches and several to the meeting-houses. Some of my lady’s tenants were contributors to me at Birch, and those her steward has compelled to withdraw, and thereby have reduced our small contribution there several pounds; and they not only make their own tenants withdraw, but they bias and persuade as many other people as they can to withdraw too, and by their proceedings

they fully design to starve a poor clergyman from his duty, and by thus using all the curates that your lordship shall license hither they presently think to have the chapel again upon the same footing they had it before; in short, my lord, the base usage I daily meet with is not to be expressed. There are six or seven vile, carnal, drunken wretches that are Broome's creatures, and these men are constantly plotting how to be revenged on me and my family. They threaten to fling me into prison for scandalising the family with wronging the chapel of Didsbury, because I informed your lordship by the depositions of the people. I am told they design to draw up a petition to your lordship against me, full of base, scandalous reflections, aspersing me as a vile, irregular person. If they should I only desire I may be fairly heard before your lordship to answer for myself. If they can charge me with anything that is true I will fairly acknowledge it to your lordship, humbly submitting myself to your lordship's will and pleasure in every respect; but if it appear that they should falsely accuse me (as I doubt not but it will) I hope means may be used for their correction. If your lordship please to send to Mr. Bolton of Manchester he will give your lordship such a description and character of these fellows as will excite your lordship to pity me or any other poor clergyman who is sent amongst them. But what can I expect from them who speak so slightly of your lordship, for not long since Mr. Shrigley was discoursing with Mr. Broome about his and his companion's usage to me and the church, and telling him that your lordship would resent it as done in contempt to your lordship's authority; Broome made answer and cursed your lordship, saying you was but a man, what could you do? You could but excommunicate them. If those villains deal thus with your lordship, what must I expect? Mr. Dale, he comes a preacher at Chorlton church (after a mobbing way) to draw both my congregation after him, and by his fawning, insinuating ways, to take their affections off me to himself; there he comes and preaches without the consent of the fellows of Manchester, and (I presume) without your lordship's license. I have many more

things to relate, but shall forbear to detain your lordship any longer; but I being treated after this manner, and by their malicious proceedings my contribution at Birch is reduced to about £16 per annum; and all I am like to have from Didsbury is about £5 4s. per annum. My friends in Manchester advised me to preach three Sundays at Birch and one at Didsbury, but that I may know directly how to proceed in all these matters I most humbly beg your lordship will be pleased to send me directions in a letter. This (with submission) is the humble petition of

Your lordship's most obedient and dutiful son,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

If it please your lordship direct
for me at Didsbury.

The deposition alluded to in the foregoing letter was that of an old servant in the Mosley family, who had been butler to Sir Edward Mosley, and who remembered his frequently declaring that he had given the close of land called the Ogre for the use of the preaching minister for the time being at the chapel of Didsbury for ever. The following is the affidavit:—

Edward Worsley of Withington, in the county of Lancaster yeoman, 76 years of age or thereabout, maketh oath that he hath known the parochial chapel of Didsbury, in the said county of Lancaster, from his infancy; and further he maketh oath that he was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of Hough's End in the county of Lancaster fifty years ago and upwards, and at the time he this deponent was servant to the said Sir Edward Mosley he has heard the said Sir Edward Mosley frequently declare that he had given a close or parcel of land called the Ogre, lying and being in Didsbury aforesaid, for ever to and for the use of the preaching minister for the time being at and for the said chapel. And this deponent further maketh oath that he very well knew Mr. Walker, minister of Didsbury aforesaid, about thirty years ago to deponent's now remembrance, to enjoy the said close called the Ogre as he was minister of the said chapel for several years together. And this

deponent further maketh oath that several years after the death of the said Sir Edward Mosley, his relation or near friend Edward Mosley Esq. called Judge Mosley, took the said close called the Ogre from the said chapel; and the said judge or his family have enjoyed and received the profits of the said close, as the deponent has heard and verily believes.

EDWARD WORSLEY, his + mark.

After the lapse of three months Mr. Wright again addresses the Bishop on the subject. His letter is dated "Didsbury, January 10, 1720-21," and is superscribed "For the Right Rev. Father in God Francis Lord Bishop of Chester, in Westminster, London." It is as follows:—

My Lord,

Mr. Shrigley acquaints me that your lordship has received the counterpart of Piccorin's lease which belongs to Didsbury Chapel, together with some affidavits procured by Mr. Broome and Mr. Dale, in order to prove me a very ill man. I desire your lordship will take notice that upon the back of the lease there is an account of the time and place when and where this said Piccorin died in Ireland, written by Judge Mosley and attested by William Twyford; because I am informed they have a design to scratch it out. As to the affidavits I humbly desire your lordship will send me copies of them, that I may give in my answer upon oath. I am conscious of no ill things I have done among them, and I desire no other favour but that my case may be truly stated, and I may be fairly heard before your lordship. I was counted an honest man till I detected their dishonesty in the church, and since then I have been all that's bad. If your lordship please to remember when you demanded Lady Bland's reasons why she turned me away from Didsbury, there was no objections made nor no reasons nor answer could be given. If your honour please to review Lady Bland's letter which I enclosed to your lordship, she says if I would resign Didsbury I should have her favour; whereby it appears I was no very ill man. Mr. Broome and his cabal had basely abused

me behind my back, and at the visitation at Manchester I there several times challenged Mr. Broome and his company, if they had anything to object against me, there to declare it before Mr. Stratford, but no answer was given. My lord, I am persecuted and hunted like a partridge upon a mountain, yet I doubt not but when the truth appears, your honour will find these proceedings of Mr. Dale's and Mr. Broome's to be nothing but malice and roguery. And now my lady and her steward apprehend they shall be compelled to make restitution to the church through my informations, they are resolved, if possible, to be revenged on me that I may not enjoy what they must restore. Mr. Shrigley tells me Mr. Dale is very much in favour with Mr. Stratford, and that he has some reason to suspect Mr. Stratford's partiality in giving your honour an account of our proceedings at the visitation at Manchester. Mr. Stratford said he had silenced Mr. Dale by your lordship's order; but it proved nothing so; for he has preached ever since, sometimes at Chorlton Chapel, sometimes at Northen, which is but half a mile from me, and draws a many of my congregation after him. Mr. Broome read a clause in the lease which says that the curates of Didsbury should not enjoy the profits of that estate unless they came there by the consent of Rowland Mosley Esq. and his heirs. I proved before Mr. Stratford that the curates of Didsbury came in by their consent ever since they took the living from the church which was anno 1704, and therefore there are sixteen years arrears of rent due, which is £320. I there proved before Mr. Broome what indirect means he and his cabal had used to separate my congregation, with many other things; whether Mr. Stratford has informed your honour right I know not. I have proved (by depositions upon oath) the Ogre given to and enjoyed by the church, whereby it appears that the arrears of rent from that are above £300; so that they owe to the church above £600, besides Sir Edward Mosley's legacy for twenty-one years, which I can prove is not paid. What composition they may hope to make with your lordship I know not, but all the clergy and gentry cry shame of their proceedings. I shall not trouble your honour any

longer now, but humbly desire the copies of the affidavits that I may give in my answer; desiring nothing but to stand or fall by the justice of my cause. I shall take all care imaginable of the affairs here, and am (with humble submission)

Your lordship's most dutiful son and obedient servant,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

A month later we find Mr. Wright again addressing the Bishop, under the date "Didsbury, February 11, 1720-21," his lordship being still in London.

My Lord,

I received your kind letter, and according to your commands I have sent the depositions, being two of the chiefest evidences I have as yet, unless there was a commission to compel people to declare the truth by subpœnas. I design to take some more who can only remember the Ogre in possession of the church. On Saturday last I was with Mr. Shrigley, who, among public company, told me that the abstract which Mr. Broome gave your lordship was a false one, and further told me that he lately saw the counterpart of Piccorin's lease, and that somebody had altered a figure in the year of our Lord in order to make the lease expire before the time, and, among some writings which Mr. Broome shewed him, Mr. Shrigley said he discovered that which would be serviceable to my chapel. I took no notice then, but I hope your lordship will desire him to inform you what it was. I could save your honour the trouble, but I am dubious he will not give me that satisfaction which he dare not deny your lordship. I believe your lordship will think it necessary that Sir Edward Mosley's will of Hough's End should be searched for: he gave the Ogre to Didsbury in his life-time. I believe it will appear that the Ogre was in possession of the church before Sir Edward made his will; I believe his will is exemplified in chancery; he died in the year 1665. My Lady Bland and Mr. Broome still continue persecuting me, and this looks like the last piece of malice they are able to vent, viz., there is no house in or about the town for a

curate to dwell in but that which I now live in, which I rent from one of their lease-tenants; Broome has now sent for a writ of ejectment to fling the man off his tenement (pretending he has forfeited his land), with no other design (I am sure) but to plague me by turning my family and goods into the streets at an hour's warning; this is what I daily expect. Mr. Broome still browbeating the tenants from contributing, my necessity compels me to think of some other method for subsistence, and I have laid a little scheme, hoping your lordship will encourage my just endeavours, viz., whereas there are several legacies (in all £104) left to my chapel to be laid out for the best advantage of the curates of Didsbury for ever, the chapel-wardens being successive trustees, and whereas all the seats in the body of the chapel being forms, and those very old, ruinous and irregular, and having no place for a curate to dwell in, I most humbly request your lordship will grant us leave to pew the body of the chapel, regularly and uniformly, which a joiner (having viewed) tells me will not cost much above £60; and with the remainder of the money, with what I can beg to it, I humbly request we may build a little house for a curate to dwell in. The money being thus laid out, the seats upon an easy rent will amount to £18 per annum, besides the house; whereas several gentlemen about us have promised me to subscribe very handsomely towards raising the bounty-money, I desire your lordship will give orders that the congregation may choose their seats (when new pewed) as they will advance towards gaining the bounty; by this means I do not doubt of obtaining the bounty, and making the income worth £40 per annum, whereas it is now but poor £5 4s. per annum. One of my congregation designs to give four score pounds, which will be a good step towards the money. I hope your lordship will not let me slip so fair an opportunity of advancing my poor chapel. I have here sent a coarse plan of it; when your lordship considers the reasonableness of these my humble requests I hope you will grant my petition. I have related the matter to Mr. Bolton and Mr. Aynscough, who know how ruinous and irregular the seats are: they are very glad of the design, and

promise to assist me and the chapel-wardens in the affair the best they can, if your lordship think it proper. With humble submission, begging the favour of your lordship's answer in a post or two, which will infinitely oblige

Your lordship's most dutiful son and obedient servant,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

At this stage of the dispute Mr. Wright appears to have retired from the incumbency leaving the further agitation of the question to his successor the Rev. Francis Hooper, between whom and Lady Ann Bland a less hostile feeling seems to have existed. Mr. Hooper pursues the subject in a letter addressed to the Bishop "at the Parliament House, Westminster," dated "Manchester, May 24, 1721."

My Lord,

I received your lordship's commands to Mr. Shrigley to officiate at Didsbury till further orders from your lordship. I should not have given your lordship this trouble if (without it) I could have obeyed your commands; but Mr. Wright, the present incumbent refuses to leave this place without further orders from your lordship. He insists upon terms which the Lady Bland seems unwilling to comply with, till his future carriage and behaviour shews that he deserves them. I believe that he might promise himself more by trusting to her generosity than by making any demands, and it would be more for his interest to rely upon that rather than seem to distrust it. But however neither this nor the discouragement he meets with nor the uneasiness of his parishioners are motives strong enough to prevail upon him to leave it: I question not but your lordship's advice would outweigh them all. If it succeeds I shall faithfully obey your commands, and do what service I can amongst them till I receive fresh orders from your lordship. I did not know how far Mr. Shrigley's commission might extend, and was unwilling upon Mr. Wright's refusal, to take any step without your lordship's knowledge and approbation. I shall wait your commands and then faithfully

observe them, and be glad of any opportunity of shewing that I am

Your lordship's most dutiful and obedient servant,
FRANCIS HOOPER.

Ultimately the case was submitted by Lady Ann Bland to Mr. Fazakerley, an eminent counsel, for his opinion, which, on being received, was forwarded to the Bishop, through Mr. Hooper, July 3rd, 1722.

The case submitted for counsel's opinion was as follows :—

Thomas Pickering being seised of a messuage and land thereunto belonging in Didsbury in the County of Lancaster for his life, and the reversion thereof being to Rowland Mosley of the Hough in the said county Esq. The said Rowland by Indenture bearing date August 12, in the sixth year of the reign of King James I. [1608] did lease the said messuage and land to eight persons therein named for the term of eighty years, to commence immediately after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering, in trust that the said lessees and their assignees should during the said term of years occupy and enjoy the said messuage and land for the profit and benefit of the parson, minister, vicar, curate or incumbent of the chapel of Didsbury for the time being, so long as any such parson, &c. should continue and be parson, &c., by and with the consent and good-liking of the said Rowland and his heirs, lords of the manor of Withington, and of the said lessees or of the greater number of them; and upon this further trust that during the time of vacation, cession or avoidance of the said parson's, &c. place, or after the said dislike, or of the greater number of the persons before named, of any such to be parson, &c., that then the said lessees and their assignees should stand possessed of the premises for the benefit of the successor incumbent that should after be parson, &c. of the said chapel by and with the liking and consent of the greater number of the persons before named. In the 10th year of the said reign [1612-13] the said Thomas Pickering sold his said estate in the premises to Sir Nicholas Mosley of

the Hough Knight, and Rowland Mosley his son. Above twenty years ago the reversion of the said messuage and land came to the Lady Bland upon the death of Sir Edward Mosley her father; and upon the counterpart of the said lease now in her hands there is an endorsement written by the said Sir Edward Mosley in these words, viz.: — “This Thomas Pickering was baptized as by the register of Didsbury appears, May 9, 1586, and went out of England into Ireland about fifty years since as the clerk of Didsbury saith, and was not heard of since, as the clerk of Didsbury said this 9 of May 1680;” in witness of William Twyford; and there are several old men, some above, others near eighty years of age, who have lived all their time at and near Didsbury, who say that they never knew or saw the said Thomas Pickering, but have heard old people of that neighbourhood who are now dead say that they knew the said Thomas Pickering, and that he left Didsbury and went to Ireland many years before the time of the said old persons now living, and that the report was that he was drowned in his voyage; and the said old persons now living say that ever since they can remember, the minister of the said chapel had been in possession of the said messuage and land until about sixteen years ago, about which time the said Sir John Bland, having (as it is apprehended) good evidence that the said term of eighty years was then expired, did in right of the said lady his wife, enter into the said messuage and land and enjoy the same until his death, without interruption or claim; and since his decease, the said lady has continued in the like peaceable possession until now: That the Bishop of Chester having been informed that the said messuage and land were formerly in possession of the ministers of the said chapel, is very earnest with the said lady to deliver up the same. Query, — Whether the testimony of the said old people, as above, will not be evidence that the said term of eighty years is now expired, and if upon the circumstances of the case it will be advisable for the said Lady Bland to quit the possession of the said messuage and land?

Fazakerley's Opinion.

I am of opinion that under the circumstances of the case stated as above, it is reasonable to presume the term of eighty years is expired, especially since there has been uninterrupted enjoyment for sixteen years in opposition to the trust of the term; which, though it won't take away the right, supposing the term were subsisting, will be a very strong evidence of its expiration. As to the latter part of the question, now my Lady Bland has my opinion of the case, she will be more properly determined by her own discretion than anything I can say further; only this I may add,—that if the case be no otherwise than as it is above stated it won't be easy to get the possession from her unless she has a mind to quit it voluntarily.

NICHOLAS FAZAKERLEY.

This probably was deemed conclusive as far as regarded Pickering's tenement leased by Rowland Mosley Esq., since we hear of no further contention. With respect to the alleged gift of the Ogre meadow on the part of Sir Edward Mosley, there is neither evidence of its being given by Sir Edward nor yet of its being taken away by any of his successors. There is no allusion to it in his will, so that if given at all it must have been made over to the chapel in his life-time, but of this no proof could be found at the time when this question of alienation was mooted, nor has any since come to light.

In 1704 the annual value of the living was certified at £5 4s., being the interest of £104 left by several benefactors; it is stated that seventeen shillings per annum more is due, but doubtful. The voluntary contributions amounted to £10 per annum, making a total of £15 4s. Warden Wroe, who refers to it about three years later, gives a somewhat different account of its annual value. "It had," he says, "formerly a better endowment than at present; what is now left, with the subscriptions of the people, may amount to near 30^{li} per ann."

In 1726 the chapel received a further augmentation of £200

from Lady Ann Bland, which was met by a grant of corresponding amount from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.

In 1733 a wish was expressed through their secretary, that the £400 thus subscribed should be immediately invested in land, to which was added an intimation that it was the intention of the governors henceforth to cease from the further payment of interest on that sum, intending by this to expedite the purchase of land. The Rev. Robert Twyford, at that time curate, unable to meet with lands of the precise value, borrowed £250, and for the sum of £650 purchased an estate called Chamber, situated at Etchels in Cheshire, the interest on the £250 borrowed being paid out of the annual proceeds of the estate. The curate's income was thus reduced to £11 per annum, with such additional voluntary offerings as the inhabitants might be disposed to make. A subscription was consequently set on foot to raise a sufficient sum to entitle the chapel to a second bounty, so as to repay the loan and to free the chapel from debt. Amongst the contributors were the Bishop of Chester and many of the neighbouring clergy and gentry, but their aggregate contributions scarcely reached £10, a sum falling far short of the object contemplated.

In 1753 Mr. Richard Broome gave £200, which was met by a grant of £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty Fund, and the land previously purchased having been re-sold at the price for which it had been originally bought, there remained, after the repayment of the £250 borrowed, the sum of £800 for the endowment of the chapel.

In 1760 an estate at Flixton, consisting of a messuage and out-buildings, together with 10a. 3r. 25p. of land, large measure, was purchased for £800.

In 1792 the chapel was again augmented with £200 out of the Royal Bounty Fund.

In 1847 the sources of annual income were thus stated:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Glebe land at Flixton	79	0	0
2. Ecclesiastical Commissioners' grant, being in return			

for £600 paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1842 by the parishioners, who therewith re- deemed from chief 47 pews for free pews for ever.				34	0	0
3. Queen Anne's Bounty (grant of 1792)	.....	...		6	10	0
4. Chief rents on pews in the galleries and chancel of the church, — average of three years	.....	...		36	18	6
5. Chapelry dues for surplice fees, uncertain, — average for three years	.....	.....		46	6	6
6. Edward Hampson's trust money	.....	..		1	0	0
Total				£203 15 0		

In 1848 the glebe land at Flixton was sold to several persons for the sum of £2,141.

In 1850 a parsonage-house was built for the curates in perpetuity. It was erected on land (2250 square yards) the property of James Heald Esq. of Parr's Wood, to whom a yearly chief is payable of £14 ls. 4d. The total cost of its erection was £1,200, of which sum £500 was taken from the endowment fund of the chapel, £255 derived from local subscription, including £25 each from Mr. Phillips and Mr. F. A. Phillips, £15 each from Mrs. Birley, Mr. Herbert Birley, and Mr. Withington; and £20 from Wilbraham Egerton Esq. the lord of the manor; the remainder being contributed by the patron and his friends.

There is now in hand belonging to the chapel £2,009 2s. 1d. invested in the three per cent consolidated bank annuities, the dividends on which are paid to the incumbent.

Until the commencement of the last century there is every reason for believing that the patronage of the chapel was exclusively vested in the Warden and Fellows of Manchester. Of this we have no direct evidence, but its relation in various respects to the mother church strongly favours the assumption.

In 1726 it was alienated to Lady Anne Bland, who undertook to provide a more permanent and settled endowment for the curate, which with the assistance of the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty,

she effected, contributing £200 for this purpose. In this family it remained until the year 1775, when Ann Bland sold the advowson to William Broom of Didsbury Esq., whose heir-at-law William Broome Esq. re-sold it in 1792 to John Newton, gent. From this family it was conveyed by sale in 1829 to Mr. William Newall. In 1840 his son the Rev. Samuel Newall M.A. sold it to the late Thomas Darwell, Esq. father of James Darwell of Barton-upon-Irwell Esq. the present patron.

The name of Alexander "Capellanus de Didsbury" occurs in an undated deed relating to the Barlow family, wherein he, the said Alexander, conveys to Roger de Barlow the elder all his lands in Barlow, Chollerton, and Harday, in the manor of Withington.¹ This is the first curate of the chapel of whom anything is known. He would officiate at Didsbury sometime before the year 1290, and would consequently be amongst the earliest of the curates resident there. After him a long interval follows, in which nothing has survived of the ministers his successors, and but very scanty notices of the chapel itself. It must be remembered that whether as a private oratory, a chapel of ease, or even a parochial chapel, Didsbury Chapel possessed in the several stages of its development nothing of the importance of a parish church to ensure its early annals being placed on more permanent record; and it must also be borne in mind that the ministers in this and similar cures were at that time generally of inferior note, not unfrequently without ordination, and only exercising the clerical function in the absence of men better qualified, who had no alternative but to shrink from occupying a position so scantily providing for the wants of him who might have become responsible for the duties. Under the date 1576 the name of "Mr. Rider" occurs in the Chapel Register as minister of Didsbury. It is, however, evidently written by another hand, and at a subsequent period to that of the adjacent entries, and its authority seems doubtful.

In 1580 (May 12), as we learn from the same source, Ottiwell

¹ Harl. MS. 2112, fo. 172.

Baguley minister, was buried at Didsbury. He was succeeded by one Mr. John Waddin, who was "curate of Diddesburie" in 1585. His successor was Mr. Loydes, who in 1588 officiated as curate. In the following year we meet with the name of Richard Massye, and in 1604 with that of James Martindale, both of whom were resident there in the capacity of curate. These dates are not intended to fix the period of their several inductions, but only to identify the parties with the chapel at the times indicated. On the 11th of August 1605 the Rev. Thomas Rycroft was appointed minister. Mr. Rycroft was cited to appear before the bishop December 15, 1609, for non-conformity, having refused to wear the surplice whilst ministering. His scruples appear to have been overcome, for we find him still at Didsbury in 1612, in which year he was instituted to the rectory of Coddington in the county of Chester, on the presentation of the dean and chapter. His annual "wage" during the term of his holding the chapel of Didsbury was £17 "besyde his provender oats." He died in 1642 rector of Coddington, and letters of administration were granted to his widow Elizabeth. His inventory is dated December 14, 1642. On the resignation of Mr. Rycroft, the Rev. John Davenport was nominated to the chapel. He is found officiating there in 1619, in which year he attests by his signature the correctness of the annual transcripts of the chapel registers forwarded to Chester. He died at Didsbury, and was buried there March 18, 1638-9. His inventory is dated August 15, 1639; his goods and chattels are returned as of the value of £66 14s. 5d., including £17 15s. 4d. in books. John Davenporte clerk, second son of Sir William Davenporte of Bramhall, marries about this time Townshend, daughter of Richard Legh of Baguley Esq., but his identity with the curate of Didsbury of that name is not established. After the death of Mr. Davenport one Mr. Turner, who acted in the capacity of schoolmaster at Didsbury, is found exercising also the ministerial function there. His name occurs in the Chapel Registers within a month of the date of Mr. Davenport's death, and in 1642, as we learn from the same source, he officiated as minister at the

interment of Mr. Thomas Hebblethwaite, a royalist officer, slain at the siege of Manchester. It seems a little uncertain whether Mr. Turner was ever instated as curate, and there is even room for the further doubt whether he had at any time received ordination, examples not being wanting, at this unsettled period, of laymen discharging the clerical office when possessing sufficient education to undertake it. We subsequently find the name of Mr. Bradshaw, who is styled "minister of Didsburie," and who was either in immediate succession to Mr. Davenport, or followed after a brief tenure of office by Mr. Turner; he was interred at Didsbury February 9, 1645-6, retaining the curacy up to the time of his death. In one of the Act Books of the Diocese of Chester is a record of a marriage license granted to "John Bradshaw clerk and Elizabeth Comberlache of Manchester parish," dated September 2, 1633. On the death of Mr. Bradshaw, the first appointment to the chapel was made under the Presbyterian form of church government, which had then been recently established. The inhabitants of the chapelry with whom the nomination now rested, selected as their future pastor Mr. Thomas Clayton, and the Classical Assembly at Manchester proceeded to ordain him. From the minutes of that body, under the date April 14, 1647, the following memorandum is derived: Preparation unto Ordination, according to Ordinance of Parliament begun March 4, 1646; Mr. Thomas Clayton, aged about twenty-four years, Master of Arts of St. John's, brought certificate of his good conversation from Blackburn, where he was born; took the National Covenant before the Classis; desired and freely elected by the people of Didsbury in the county of Lancashire; was examined according to the Ordinance; an Instrument affixed on the church door of the said congregation, answer returned without exception; his question in divinity, "An gratia Dei sit irresistibilis?" approved, and the ordination fixed for the ensuing day. Mr. Clayton was accordingly ordained in Manchester church along with six others, the day being declared a fast-day for the purpose. Mr. Walker preached, and after a public confession of their faith the candidates were ordained by the imposi-

tion of hands. Letters of Orders were given to each of them; Mr. Clayton's commission was as follows: — "Whereas, Mr. Thomas Clayton, Mr of Artes, aged about 28 yeares, hath addressed himself to us authorised by ordinance of both Houses of Parliament of y^e 26 of August 1646 for the ordination of ministers, desiring to be ordayned a Presbyter, for y^t hee is chosen and appointed for y^e work of y^e ministry in y^e Church of Didsbury in y^e com. of Lancaster, as by a certife. now remaining with us touching y^t his election and appointment appeareth, — and hee having likewise taken y^e Nationall Covenant before us and exhibited a sufficient Testimoniall of his diligence and proficiency in his studyes and unblamiblenesse of life and conversation; — He hath beene examined according to y^e Rules for examination in y^e s^d ordinance expressed and thereupon approv'd; and there having been noe just exception made ag^{tt} his ordination and admission; — These may testify to all whom it may concern, That upon y^e 15th day of this month of April we have proceeded solemnly to sett him apart to y^e office of a Presbyter and work of y^e ministry of y^e gospel by y^e laying on of our hands, by fasting and prayer, by virtue whereof we doe declare him to be a lawful and sufficiently authorised minister of Jesus Christ; — and having good evidence of his lawful and fayre calling not only to y^e work of the ministry but to y^e exercise thereof in y^e Church of Didsbury in y^e com. aforesaid, Wee doe hereby send him thither and actually admit him to y^e said charge to performe all y^e offices and dutyes of a faithful Pastor there, exhorting y^e people in y^e name of Jesus Christ willingly to receive and acknowledge him as the minister of Christ, and to maintain and encourage him in y^e execution of his office that he may be able to give up such an account to Christ of their obedience to his ministry as may bee to him joy and their everlasting comfort. In witness whereof wee the Presbyters of y^e first Classis in the county of Lancaster have hereto sett our hands this fifteenth day of April anno Dom̃ 1647.

RICHARD HEYRICK

EDWARD WOOLMER

JOHN HARISON

WILLIAM WALKER

TOBIE FURNACE.

Simultaneously with the admission into orders of Mr. Clayton arose an effort on the part of the inhabitants to make suitable provision for his support. A meeting of the people was called to effect this, and the following resolutions were agreed to; the document bears no date:—

Wee whose names are subscribed (beinge inhabitants wth in the parish or parochiall chapelrye of Didsburye in the county palatyne of Lancaster) unanimously assenting to and approvinge of the admission and abilitye of Mr. Thomas Clayton now minister there; and willinge and desiringe him to continue the execu^cōn of his function there; and considringe that the meanes designed to the said church is not competent for the mainten^{ce} of soe deserving a man, whom (alwayes wth the favor and assent of S^r Edward Mosley baronett alredye graunted) wee desire to continue and bee confirmed in the said office; and though wee have hope that ere longe there may bee a convenient augmenta^cōn obtained ffor the mainten^{ce} of o^r said minister, yett, for a more & settled recompence of his most approved industrie wee have thought fitt and doe hereby iointlye & se^vallie (as a by lawe for the publique good) order and agree in manner & forme followinge:—

Imprimis, That the said Mr. Clayton shall not onely for the yeare alreadye past w^{ch} hee hath served here, have & receive soe much as to make up what hee hath had xliⁱ, but alsoe shall (duringe his abode wth us & officiatinge) hercafter and untill soe much mainten^{ce} bee oth^rwise obteyned & settled, have and receive the full some of ffortyc pounds p annū quarterlye, at Michaelmas, Christmas, the Annuncia^cōn, & Midsom^r (to witt wth the mesuage & tenement hereaft^r men^cōned as after apeares) to bee paid equallie & respectivelye, the first paim^t to begin at Michas next ensueinge.

Item. That the mesuage and tenem^t assigned to the use of the minist^r of the said church, for the tyme beinge, shall bee valued and acompted at the rate of tenne pounds p annū (towards the said xliⁱ p annū) considringe the tymes, & that Mr. Clayton is a single man & soe cannot husband it to advantage.

Item. Whereas there is a stocke of money belonginge to the said Church, w^{ch}, or the interest or use thereof we cannot account as assured (it remayninge in many hands) wee freelye remitt & give (as an overplus or addicōn above the said xliⁱ p annū) to the said Mr. Clayton the interest or use of the same stocke from the tyme of his cominge to us duringe his abode in his said place, soe farre as in us lyeth.

Item. Wee order & agree that Thirtye pounds p annū of lawfull money shalbee assessed, taxed & apportioned equallie & indifferentlye upon us & other the inhabitants of the said Chapellrye, from tyme to tyme, (ffor the makinge up of the said ten pounds to xliⁱ a yeare as aforesaid), and that the same shalbee assessed, taxed & laid by Edward Chorlton and George Jackson of houghend, William Barlow of Didsburye, William Langford of Wythlington, Richard Chorlton and James Birch of Littleheath, Thomas Hughes & Nicholas Holt of Didsburye, Edmund Chorlton of Wythlington, John Birch of Burnage, Thomas Williamson and Edward Norris of Heaton Norris, Nicholas Wood and Edward Linney of Didsburye, or the greater number of them, as they or the greater number of them shall in conscience thinke fitt and indifferent, having regard to both personall & reall estates; and the same first assessm^t to stand as a constant rule.

Item. That such assessm^t, taxe & apporcionm^t shalbee speedilye made and ingrossed perfectlye in parchm^t (togethr wth this order) and that two parts bee thereof made whereof th'one to remaine wth the said Mr. Clayton and th'other wth the said assessors or some of them, and evie one soe assessed shall pay or bee lyable to pay his proporcion soe assessed at the tymes aforesaid.

Item. Wee order & agree (by the comōn assent aforesaid) that if wee or any of us or any other so assessed as aforesaid shall or doe make default of paim^t of our or any of our proporcions, some or some of money (soe as aforesaid to bee upon us or any of us or them assessed & taxed) at the sevall & respective dayes and tymes aforesaid and by the space of ten dayes after any of the ffeasts or dayes aforesaid respectivelye & soe from tyme to tyme, That then

& from thenceforth it shall & may bee lawfull to & for the said Mr. Clayton, or the assessors aforesaid or the greater part of them or their or any of their assignes, agents, servantes by their or any of their apointm^t to distreine upon the goods or cattells of such p^rson or p^rsons makinge default wheresoev^r or howsoever, and the distresses soe taken to sell or dispose of at any time aft^r two dayes (if the parties full dues & arreres bee not before that tyme paid) rendring the overplus to the party; And alsoe that it shall & may bee lawfull to the said Mr. Clayton to sue at law in any Court or Courtes (for the said assessm^{ts} & the arreres thereof) the parties makinge default, in his owne name or in the name or names of the said assessors or the great^r part of them, to his onely use.

Item. That this order and agreem^t bee speedilye putt into execu^cōn wth effect; And that the same continue in full force (as a by lawe or publique ordinance) untill the said Mr. Clayton shall otherwise have established and setled upon him to the value of xliⁱ p annū or above, for the execu^cōn of the cure at the Church of Didsburye aforesaid w^{ch} hee p^rmiseth and wee well hope hee will p^rforme.

The new form of Church-government does not appear to have worked well in Didsbury. Much difficulty arose in persuading the elders to act in that capacity, and in June 1648 Mr. Angier, Mr. Clayton and others were deputed to see if they could induce them to accept their office. Mr. Clayton's own views seem to have been somewhat unsettled, absenting himself from the meetings of the Classis as though unwilling to identify himself too closely with its members, and then excusing himself for his non-attendance by pretexts so vague as to be admitted only on promise of future amendment, until at length on March 11, 1650-1, it was announced at their monthly meeting that "Mr. Clayton minister at Didsburie did withdraw from the Classis and departed out of y^e Classis without anie order from the Classis."

The defection of Mr. Clayton rendered necessary the appoint-

ment of another minister, and the choice of the inhabitants fell on the Rev. Peter Ledsame, who proved scarcely less intractable than was his predecessor. On the 14th of December 1652, it was ordered that Mr. Angier and Mr. Hyde should speak to Mr. Ledsame of Didsbury concerning his presence at the Classis and erecting of the government, and should make report at the next Classical meeting. The result of this expostulation was communicated to the assembly January 11, 1653-4. Mr. Ledsame promised future appearance, excusing his present irregularity by the plea of necessary business; but when at their next meeting February 14, he was still absent, a summons was ordered to be issued compelling him to appear. In 1661 he was instituted rector of Wilmslow in the county of Chester, on the presentation of Sir Cecil Trafford, which he resigned in 1673, and dying July 22, 1678, was buried at Wilmslow. Of Mr. Ledsame's successor nothing has reached us; whoever he may have been it is presumed that he conformed in 1662, since we have no tidings of the ejection of a curate from Didsbury on the passing of the Act of Uniformity. In 1664 Didsbury was declared to be without a curate, the Registers of the Chapel announcing under the date February 10, 1664-5, that certain children belonging to Withington were christened at Chorlton, there "being noe minister at Didsbury." Other entries, seemingly at variance with this, intimate that the Rev. James Jackson was curate there. In September 1658 Mary, the daughter of "James Jackson minister" (of what cure is not stated) was buried at Didsbury; and later, in July 1666, "Elin the daughter of James Jackson minister" was likewise interred, — leading to the inference that Mr. Jackson may possibly have been Mr. Ledsame's immediate successor, and that the absence of a minister announced in 1664 may have arisen from some temporary cause not affecting his continuance there, the duration of that absence not extending beyond a single day. Mr. Jackson was, however, during these same years curate of the neighbouring chapel of Chorlton, and the only mode of reconciling these apparently contradictory statements is to suppose that he held both chapels as the custom then not unfre-

quently was, in the case of benefices scantily endowed. In 1667 the chapel was unsupplied, and a caveat was entered by Joseph Maynard Esq. against the licensing of a curate. Mr. Maynard was brother-in-law of Sir Edward Mosley Bart., then recently deceased, whose will was under litigation; and it is inferred that as claimant under the deceased baronet's will he was desirous that his asserted right of concurrence in the appointment of minister (upon which concurrence the payment of certain sums left by his wife's family in augmentation of the minister's income had been made conditional) might not be prejudiced. In 1678 the Rev. John Walker was found exercising the function of curate; he held the curacy till 1685. He was a graduate of Magdalene College, Cambridge, M.A. 1669. His successor was the Rev. Peter Shaw, who at the time of his appointment was curate of Stretford Chapel. Mr. Shaw continued at Didsbury for some years; his name is met with in the Chapel Registers in 1699. In the following year he resigned the cure. In 1704 (June 7) the Rev. Joshua Wakefield B.A. of Queen's College, Cambridge (B.A. 1695, M.A. 1699) was nominated to Didsbury by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester, his nomination being signed by Richard Wroe, Warden; Roger Bolton and Robert Assheton, Fellows;—but though receiving in 1704 his formal appointment, he was officiating as curate at Didsbury four years earlier, his signature as minister being attached to the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1700. He was therefore Mr. Shaw's immediate successor. His stay was but short, for we find one Joshua Wakefield, probably the same individual, instituted December 9, 1705, to the rectory of Wilmslow on the presentation of John Harrison. In 1706 Roger Bolton signs his name as "Curate" at the annual auditing of the churchwardens' accounts of the preceding year. It seems not improbable that Mr. Bolton was the Fellow of Manchester Collegiate Church of that name. He was succeeded in 1709 by the Rev. David Dawson, who was found officiating as curate in that year, and subsequently also in 1715. Mr. Dawson was of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1706. In 1716 the Rev. James Leicester B.A.

of St. John's College, Cambridge, was minister of the chapel; the date of his nomination is not recorded. He was also Librarian of the Chetham Library in Manchester, to which he had been appointed in 1712 on the resignation of the Rev. Nathaniel Banne. He died at Didsbury, and was buried there September 5, 1718. The next curate whose name has reached us is the Rev. Thomas Wright B.A., nominated July 11, 1720, by the Warden and Fellows; his nomination is signed by Thomas Hall, Roger Bolton, and Robert Assheton, Fellows. There had doubtless been an intermediate nomination following more closely the death of Mr. Leicester, but the name of the curate is unknown. Mr. Wright appears to have been a man of a litigious spirit, as his correspondence, elsewhere given, with Bishop Gastrell will serve to show. From the commencement of his ministration at Didsbury he was unfortunate, beginning as his career did with an humble submission to his diocesan for previous informal practices now first objected against him. The document is short, and explains itself:—"Forasmuch as I Thomas Wright, clerk, did perform the service of the Church of England and preach at Winnington Hall without the license of the Right Reverend Father in God Francis Lord Bishop of Chester, I do hereby acknowledge that my offence, and am heartily sorry I did anything to incur the displeasure of my honourable diocesan; but forasmuch as it was not done in contempt, but through ignorance on one hand and the necessitous obligations I lay under on the other, I therefore hope your lordship will pardon me, who from henceforth promise to be your lordship's most obedient dutiful son."—His stay at Didsbury was under two years. He failed to conciliate the people, and was probably starved into a resignation of the living. He held also the chapel of Birch, to which as well as to Didsbury he had been nominated July 11, 1720. He resigned both chapels the same day, January 10, 1721-2, and was succeeded by the Rev. Francis Hooper M.A. (B.A. 1716, M.A. 1720), Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, at that time Librarian also of the Chetham Library, Manchester, in succession to Mr. Leicester. He resigned the two appointments

after having held them for about five years. On the 15th September 1726, the Rev. Robert Twyford B.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford, was nominated to the chapel by the Lady Anne Bland, to whom the patronage had been recently alienated. Mr. Twyford was a native of Didsbury, the son of Mr. Robert Twyford, descended from a royalist family of respectable connexions in the township; he was born in 1690. For the two or three last years of his life he held the adjacent chapel of Birch in conjunction with that of Didsbury; he died at Didsbury, and was buried there March 2, 1746-7. On the 15th day of May following, the Rev. William Twyford B.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, was nominated by Sir John Bland Bart. to succeed his father, the late curate. He had been already licensed (March 17) to Birch Chapel, but this he resigned in 1752. He held Didsbury for nearly fifty years, and dying in 1795 was succeeded by the Rev. John Newton M.A. of Queen's College, Cambridge, who was nominated July 28, 1795, by John Newton gent. Mr. Newton held the chapel until his death, which occurred September 16, 1807. He was buried at Didsbury. On the 3rd of November 1807, the Rev. John Gatliff M.A. succeeded on the death of Mr. Newton. His nomination was under the hand of the Rev. Henry Brown, "who had purchased the presentation during the life of the late incumbent, but had it not in his power at present to hold it." In 1792 Mr. Gatliff was elected clerk in orders of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, on the death of the Rev. John Everard Upton, who was killed by a fall from his horse after holding the office for the brief space of six weeks; and on the decease of the Rev. Dr. Griffiths was appointed to succeed him March 19, 1798, as Fellow of the Collegiate Church. He became rector of St. Mary's, Manchester, in 1804, and died November 22, 1843, aged eighty, having three years previously resigned the Chapel of Didsbury. He was succeeded by the Rev. William John Kidd, Incumbent of St. Matthew's, Manchester, who received his nomination to Didsbury from Thomas Darwell of Manchester Esq. December 30, 1840, and is the present incumbent.

The following is a list of the Curates of Didsbury, as far as their names can now be recovered : —

1576.	—— Rider.	1678, 1685. John Walker.
—1580.	Ottiwell Baguley.	1685–1700. Peter Shaw.
1585.	John Waddin.	1700–1705. Joshua Wakefield.
1588.	—— Loydes.	1705–1709. Roger Bolton.
1589.	Richard Massye.	1709–1716. David Dawson.
1604.	James Martindale.	1716–1718. James Leicester.
1605–1612.	Thomas Rycroft.	1720–1721. Thomas Wright.
1619, 1638.	John Davenport.	1721–1726. Francis Hooper.
1638–	—— Turner.	1726–1746. Robert Twyford.
—1646.	John Bradshaw.	1746–1795. William Twyford.
1647–1650.	Thomas Clayton.	1795–1807. John Newton.
1650–1661.	Peter Ledsame.	1807–1840. John Gatliff.
1664.	No curate.	1840. William John Kidd.

The Registers of the Chapel commence in the year 1561, and are for the most part in good preservation. The arrangement of baptisms, marriages and burials, under separate heads, is more methodical than often happens. In the earliest volume the first page, consisting of entries of marriages from 1561 to 1570, is all but illegible, the soiled condition of the parchment rendering the writing indistinct; but in other respects the earlier entries are more carefully made than those of a later date.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1561 ...	28 ...	want- ing ...	0 ¹	1570 { imper- fect 6 }	13 ...	1	
1562 ...	25 ...	18 ...	0	1571 ...	31 ...	22 ...	6
1563 ...	want- ing ...	18 ...	0	1572 ...	29 ...	12 ...	5
1564 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1573 { imper- fect 4 }	25 ...	9	
1565 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1574 { imper- fect 2 }	11 ...	1	
1566 ...	35 ...	26 ...	0	1575 ...	22 ...	28 ...	9
1567 ...	31 ...	23 ...	0				
1568 ...	30 ...	27 ...	0				
1569 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0				

¹ Illegible from 1561 to 1570.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1576 ...	38 ..	27 ..	7	1608 ...	33 ...	27 ...	1
1577 ...	want- ing ...	32 ...	11	1609 ...	30 ...	24 ...	3
1578 ...	38 ...	31 ...	14	1610 ...	30 ...	28 ...	2
1579 ...	18 ...	16 ...	7	1611 ...	30 ...	40 ...	3
1580 ...	35 ...	39 ...	10	1612 ...	16 ...	28 ...	1
1581 ...	26 ...	23 ..	6	1613 ...	20 ...	26 ...	1
1582 ...	29 ...	29 ..	4	1614 { imper- fect 2 }	want- ing ...	0	
1583 ...	32 ...	25 ...	3	1615 ...	30 { imper- fect 15 }	2	
1584 ...	35 ...	28 ...	5	1616 ...	34 ...	34 ...	0
1585 ...	39 ...	50 ...	4	1617 ...	29 ...	46 ...	1
1586 ...	21 ...	35 ...	9	1618 ...	29 ...	22 ...	0
1587 ...	23 ...	45 ...	3	1619 ...	32 ...	29 ...	5
1588 ...	13 ...	27 ...	0	1620 ...	35 ...	19 ...	3
1589 ...	25 ..	22 ...	3	1621 ...	39 ...	36 ...	0
1590 ...	31 ...	46 ..	12	1622 ...	29 ...	55 ...	7
1591 ...	39 ...	38 ...	6	1623 ...	28 ...	67 ...	1
1592 ...	43 ...	37 ...	5	1624 ...	36 ...	36 ...	0
1593 ..	47 ...	27 ...	5	1625 ...	35 ...	28 ...	1
1594 ...	48 ...	26 ...	8	1626 ...	39 ...	42 ...	2
1595 ...	39 ...	23 ...	4	1627 ...	36 ...	22 ...	0
1596 ...	44 ...	35 ...	5	1628 ...	37 ...	20 ...	5
1597 ..	37 ...	48 ...	2	1629 ...	42 ...	34 ...	2
1598 ...	30 ...	54 ...	3	1630 ...	47 ...	33 ...	0
1599 ...	48 ...	38 ...	6	1631 ...	33 ...	29 ...	0
1600 ...	42 ...	37 ...	7	1632 ...	44 ...	36 ...	4
1601 ...	30 ...	32 ...	1	1633 ...	38 ...	29 ...	7
1602 ...	24 ...	40 ...	2	1634 ...	44 ..	33 ...	2
1603 ...	35 { imper- fect 19 }	0		1635 ...	43 ...	50 ...	3
1604 { imper- fect 2 ... imper- fect 16 }	0			1636 ...	28 ...	27 ...	3
1605 ...	35 ...	44 ...	3	1637 ...	31 ...	47 ...	7
1606 ...	52 ...	40 ...	3	1638 ...	32 ...	44 ...	3
1607 ...	36 ...	30 ...	3	1639 ...	41 ...	42 ...	7

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1640 ...	31 ..	34 .	3	1670 ...	21 ...	38 ...	5
1641 ...	30 ...	17 ...	7	1671 ...	20 ...	39 ...	5
1642 ...	22 ...	29 ...	1	1672 ...	26 ...	45 ...	1
1643 { imper- fect 5 ...	imper- fect 8 }		1	1673 ...	32 ...	28 ...	2
1644 ...	38 ...	56 ...	17	1674 ...	24 ...	42 ...	3
1645 ...	50 ...	36 ...	9	1675 ...	17 ...	40 ...	0
1646 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1676 ...	17 ...	38 ...	3
1647 ...	imper- fect ...	want- ing ...	1	1677 ...	24 ...	32 ...	2
1648 ...	imper- fect ...	want- ing ...	0	1678 ...	18 ...	31 ...	2
1649 ...	imper- fect { imper- fect 6 }		3	1679 ...	17 ...	29 ...	3
1650 { imper- fect 21 ...	imper- fect 4 }		1	1680 ...	25 ...	41 .	4
1651 { imper- fect 10 }		27 ...	1	1681 ...	17 ...	48 ...	1
1652 ..	31 ...	35 ...	1	1682 ...	26 ...	20 ...	1
1653 ...	18 ..	37 ...	2	1683 ...	21 ...	28 ...	5
1654 ...	23 ...	17 ...	0	1684 ...	21 ...	67 ...	1
1655 ...	29 ...	23 ..	3	1685 ...	22 ...	44 ...	3
1656 ...	32 ..	33 ...	0	1686 ...	24 ...	36 ...	2
1657 ..	16 ...	42 ...	0	1687 ...	10 ...	20 ...	1
1658 ...	15 ...	54 ..	2	1688 ...	15 ...	24 ...	8
1659 ...	19 ...	28 ...	4	1689 ...	23 ...	32 ...	4
1660 ...	19 ...	16 ...	2	1690 ...	18 ...	17 ...	4
1661 ..	22 ...	27 ...	0	1691 ..	17 ...	20 ...	1
1662 ...	17 ...	35 ...	2	1692 ..	18 ...	36 ...	5
1663 ...	29 ...	20 ...	4	1693 ...	11 ...	23 ...	4
1664 ...	27 ...	33 ...	2	1694 ...	13 ..	26 ...	1
1665 ...	19 ...	37 ..	1	1695 ..	17 ...	47 ...	2
1666 ...	22 ...	22 ...	3	1696 ...	21 ..	25 ...	1
1667 ..	24 ..	41 ...	2	1697 ...	16 ...	29 ..	0
1668 ...	27 ...	36 ...	4	1698 ...	11 ..	31 ...	1
1669 ...	25 ...	38 ..	5	1699 ...	12 ..	34 ...	1
				1700 ...	9 ...	34 ...	1
				1701 ...	19 ...	26 ...	1
				1702 ...	imper- fect ...	23 ...	0
				1703 ...	17 ...	20 ...	1

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1704 .	12 ...	25 ...	2	1737 ...	41 ...	25 ...	2
1705 ...	15 ...	20 ...	2	1738 ...	42 ...	18 ...	4
1706 ...	18 ...	25 ...	7	1739 ...	36 ...	24 ...	2
1707 ...	17 ...	32 ...	1	1740 ...	35 ...	61 ...	2
1708 ..	16 ...	31 ..	1	1741 ...	45 ...	32 ...	2
1709 ...	13 ...	28 ...	2	1742 ..	41 ...	42 ...	1
1710 ...	21 ...	18 ...	5	1743 ...	43 ...	16 ...	1
1711 ...	19 ...	23 ...	1	1744 ...	59 ...	18 ...	3
1712 ...	30 ...	33 ...	3	1745 ...	42 ...	27 ...	10
1713 ..	31 ...	21 ..	1	1746 ...	28 ...	34 ...	4
1714 ...	30 ...	27 ...	1	1747 ...	24 ...	38 ...	3
1715 ...	34 ...	36 ...	1	1748 ..	31 ...	15 ...	4
1716 ...	24 ...	27 ...	2	1749 ...	38 ...	20 ...	0
1717 ...	19 ...	35 ...	0	1750 ...	31 ...	23 ...	4
1718 ...	35 ...	22 ...	4	1751 ...	37 ...	21 ...	4
1719 ...	34 ...	28 ..	5	1752 ...	27 ...	12 ...	0 ¹
1720 ...	35 ...	21 ...	1	1753 ...	26 ...	34 ...	0
1721 ...	24 ...	42 ...	1	1754 ...	36 ...	32 ..	0
1722 ...	33 ...	41 ...	1	1755 ...	38 ..	35 ...	0
1723 ...	28 ...	24 ...	3	1756 ...	30 ...	59 ...	0
1724 ...	41 ...	36 ...	0	1757 ...	41 ...	21 ...	0
1725 ...	41 ..	38 ...	0	1758 ...	36 ...	22 ...	0
1726 ...	45 ...	55 ...	1	1759 ...	45 ...	30 ...	0
1727 ...	30 ...	78 ...	2	1760 ...	38 ...	37 ...	0
1728 ...	29 ..	97 ...	1	1761 ...	42 ...	37 ...	0
1729 ...	18 ...	91 ...	3	1762 ...	47 ...	32 ...	0
1730 ...	33 ...	56 ...	3	1763 ...	28 ...	29 ...	0
1731 ...	41 ...	42 ...	9	1764 ...	50 ...	51 ...	0
1732 ...	31 ...	41 ...	4	1765 ...	31 ...	30 ...	0
1733 ...	40 ...	18 ...	3	1766 ...	45 ...	34 ...	0
1734 ...	36 ...	28 ...	1	1767 ...	40 ...	37 ...	0
1735 ...	36 ...	44 ...	3	1768 ...	37 ...	39 ...	0
1736 ..	41 ...	36 ...	8	1769 ...	40 ...	31 ..	0

¹ From this date marriages cease at Didsbury, not being resumed until the year 1838.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1770 ...	42 ...	74 ...	0	1804 ...	61 ...	53 ...	0
1771 ...	45 ...	43 ...	0	1805 ...	76 ..	70 ...	0
1772 ...	27 ...	57 ...	0	1806 ...	74 ...	62 ...	0
1773 ...	36 ...	25 ...	0	1807 ...	73 ...	80 ...	0
1774 ...	34 ...	35 ...	0	1808 ...	74 ...	83 ...	0
1775 ...	29 ...	30 ...	0	1809 ...	68 ...	69 ...	0
1776 ...	42 ...	60 ...	0	1810 ...	83 ...	99 ...	0
1777 ...	36 ...	40 ...	0	1811 ...	77 ...	52 ...	0
1778 ...	25 ...	43 ...	0	1812 ...	64 ...	71 ...	0
1779 ...	32 ..	67 ...	0	1813 ...	70 ...	78 ...	0
1780 ...	32 ...	49 ...	0	1814 ..	67 ...	101 ...	0
1781 ...	28 ...	60 ...	0	1815 ...	62 ...	99 ...	0
1782 ...	44 ...	54 ...	0	1816 ...	67 ...	106 ...	0
1783 ...	31 ...	53 ...	0	1817 ...	78 ...	88 ...	0
1784 ...	46 ..	38 ...	0	1818 ...	60 ...	102 ...	0
1785 ...	35 ...	52 ...	0	1819 ...	70 ...	74 ...	0
1786 ...	44 ..	52 ..	0	1820 ...	56 ...	69 ...	0
1787 ...	47 ...	56 ...	0	1821 ...	63 ...	91 ...	0
1788 ..	40 ...	48 ..	0	1822 ...	91 ...	77 ..	0
1789 ...	50 ...	70 ...	0	1823 ...	78 ...	103 ...	0
1790 ..	52 ...	54 ...	0	1824 ...	74 ...	85 ...	0
1791 ...	46 ...	60 ...	0	1825 ...	65 ...	80 ...	0
1792 ...	49 ...	73 ...	0	1826 ...	82 ...	136 ...	0
1793 ...	61 ...	58 ...	0	1827 ...	70 ...	80 ...	0
1794 ..	49 ..	67 ...	0	1828 ...	79 ...	95 ...	0
1795 ...	64 ...	66 ...	0	1829 ...	71 ...	87 ...	0
1796 ...	55 ...	83 ...	0	1830 ...	78 ...	104 ...	0
1797 ...	57 ...	48 ...	0	1831 ...	74 ...	126 ...	0
1798 ...	62 ...	67 ...	0	1832 ...	98 ...	102 ..	0
1799 ...	59 ...	74 ...	0	1833 ...	96 ...	85 ...	0
1800 ...	61 ...	73 ...	0	1834 ...	121 ...	119 ...	0
1801 ...	59 ...	72 ...	0	1835 ...	114 ...	114 ...	0
1802 ...	70 ...	82 ...	0	1836 ...	106 ...	126 ...	0
1803 ...	79 ...	75 ...	0	1837 ...	123 ...	114 ...	0

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1838 ...	102	...120	... 34	1847 ...	85	... 96	... 65
1839 ...	101	...109	... 47	1848 ...	81	...105	... 84
1840 ...	96	...114	... 44	1849 ...	91	...106	... 80
1841 ..	86	... 80	... 43	1850 ...	83	... 68	... 46
1842 ...	74	... 91	... 37	1851 ...	73	...103	... 28
1843 ...	107	...115	... 94	1852 ...	81	... 84	... 11
1844 ...	91	... 97	... 81	1853 ..	59	... 86	... 10
1845 ...	100	... 92	... 89	1854 .	64	... 86	... 4
1846 ...	89	...108	... 80	1855 . .	51	... 71	... 7

1562. March 26. Baptized frances, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1562. April 3. Buried Thomas Blomeley and hys wyffe, eodem die.
1562. March 21. Buried uxor Mr. Holme.
1566. April 29. Baptized John, the sonne of a poore man.
1566. October 19. Baptized Nicholas, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1567. January 26. Baptized Alexander, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1569. October 17. Baptized Edward, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley.
1578. September 24. Buried Elizabeth, the doughter of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1580. May 12. Buried Ottiwell Baguley minister.
1581. September 16. Baptized Margaret, the doughter of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1583. December 26. Buried Elizabeth, the wyffe of Alex^o Barlowe esquier.
1584. August 26. Buried Alexander Barlowe de Barlowe esquier.
1585. November 30. Baptized Edward, the sonne of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1587. June 1. Baptized John, the sonne of Richarde Booth gent.

1588. Mr. Loydes beinge minister in the yeare 1588 regestered non in hys tyme.
1589. July 7. Buried John Downes alias Chorleton, y^e sonne of John Chorleton clerke, in templo.
1589. July 21. Baptized Jane, the doughter of Alex^d Barlowe ar.
1590. December 21. Buried Rauffe, the sonne of Thomas Sorowcolde de Manchester.
1590. February 6. Baptized Thomas, the sonne of Robarte Brooke by Elizabeth Ryle alias Great besse.
1591. May 9. Buried Anne, the wyffe of Thomas Woodd clerke de Didisbury.¹
1593. February 8. Buried John, the sonne of Rowlande Mosseley of the Houghend gen.
1595. December 25. Buried Edmound, the sonne of Alex^d Barlowe gen.
1596. October 24. Buried Anne, the doughter of R. [or K.] T. by I. Prestwich.
1597. January 26. Buried one Bexweeke a poore mañ, dyed at Edmoundes Barlowe.
1597. Ellin Rediche of ffallowfilde bare a womañ childe and it was buried feb. 19.

¹ The office of parish clerk has been transmitted in one family from father to son for the long space of two hundred and fifty years, as appears from the registers and also from a grave-stone in the chapel-yard thus inscribed: "In commemoration of Thomas Wood clerk of this church, who was buried beneath this place: Ann his wife, buried May 9, 1591. Thomas Wood clerk above sixty years, buried October 20, 1651; Ann his wife, buried August 20, 1639. William Wood clerk thirty years, buried May 28, 1681, aged sixty-three years; Mary his wife, buried May 28, 1672. Thomas Wood clerk thirty-six years, buried October 6, 1717, aged sixty-seven years; Mary his wife, aged ninety-two years, buried February 10, 1744. Thomas Wood clerk thirty years, buried January 2, 1746, aged sixty-one years; Sarah his wife, buried March 6, 1773, aged eighty-seven years. William Wood clerk forty-four years, buried December 10, 1790, aged seventy years; Mary his wife, buried December 27, 1798, aged eighty years. James Wood clerk fifteen years, died July 5, 1805, aged forty-one years. Thomas Wood clerk thirty-four years, died May 29, 1839, aged eighty-two years, — he and his ancestors having filled that office upwards of two hundred and fifty years successively; also Mary his wife, died August 1, 1837, aged eighty-six years."

1599. May 1. Married Edwarde Sagar notarius publicus et Elizabeth Astley.
1605. August 10. Married Alexander Chorlton and Ellyne Turner by me J... Barnet(?) p'son of Northen.
1605. Thomas Roycrofte came the xith daye of August to bee minister at Diddisburye.
1605. September 19. Buried an infante still borne, whose mother was infected with the pestilence.
1605. September 19. Buried Thomas ex pestilentia.
1605. September 20. Buried Thomas Blomeley the yonger ex pestilentia.
1605. September 21. Buried Edward Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 21. Buried Richard his sonne ex eodem morbo.
1605. September 22. Buried Katharyn Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 23. Buried Ellis Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 24. Buried Thomas Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 26. Buried Adam Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. October 1. Buried Alyce Blomeley ex pestilentia.¹
1605. February 25. Baptized Anthony, sonne of ffrancis Elcocke of Stockforth.
1606. December 8. Married Mr. Proudlove and Elizabeth Hulme vidua.
1607. May 21. Married Mr. William Whitmore esquier and Mrs. Margaret Mosley.
1610. July 26. Buried ffrancis Mosley, y^e sonne of S^r Nicholas Mosley.
1610. November 13. Buried two litle infantess borne longe before their full tyme.
1610. January 5. Buried a poore aged strange woman starved to death.

¹ Though Didsbury was not altogether free from the pestilence which in this year depopulated Manchester, as is shown by the above melancholy record, it does not appear that the township suffered very generally, the number of burials being but slightly in excess of the average in former years. In Manchester its effects were more marked; deaths increased sevenfold; no fewer than 1,078 interments were recorded in the Registers of the Collegiate Church during the year, being at least one-fifth of the inhabitants.

1611. July 29. Buried James Hartley, desperately slayne in his drunkennes.
1612. December 8. Buried Sr Nicholas Mosley knight.
1613. May 27. Buried An, the wyfe of Mr. Rowland Moseley.
1615. November 6. Buried an infante childe of Mr. Rowland Moseley Esq.
1616. March 11. Buried Mr. Rowland Mosley Esq.
1617. May 27. Buried Dame Elizabeth Mosley, the wife of Sir Nicholas Mosley knight.
1629. October 4. Baptized Robert, the sonne of John Davenport minister.
1633. february 12. Married Mr. Antonye Elcocke and Mrs. Alis Hilton.
1635. August 16. Baptized Mary, the doughter of Mr. Bently p'cher at Birch Chap.
1636. July 27. Baptized Katharine, the daughter of John Davenport minister.
1636. November 15. Married Edwarde Mosley Esq. and Mrs. Mary Cutler, married at Chorlton Chap.
1636. November 24. Buried Mr. John Trafford of Chorlton.
1636. November 29. Buried Katharine, the daughter of John Davenport minister.
1638. April 3. Baptized Oswald, the sonne of — Mosley Esq.
1638. November 29. Buried Margaret Willsonne, a poore old woman.
1638. March 18. Buried Mr. Davenport minister of the Church of Didsburie,
1639. April 7. Baptized Nathaniel, the sonne of Mr. Turner.
1639. May 29. Buried Thomas, the sonne of Mr. John Davenport.
1639. September 15. Baptized Anne, daughter of Mr. John Davenport.
1642. September. Att this tyme was civill and bloodie warrs betwixt Kinge Charles and his Parliament, and Manchester was besieged the 25 of this month, and this booke was

plundered by T. W. w^{ch} caused this blanke [from September 4, 1642, to February 1643-4].

1642. Mr. Thomas Hebblethwaites was buried at Didsburie the xxvijth of September. This gentleman came (in 1642) against Manchester and was slaine at the seige there, and was brought to Didsbury to bee buried, and was buried by Mr. Turner schoolemaster.
1643. february 16. Buried Ric: Ward gent. a troop[er].
1644. September 8. Married Captaine Charles Worsley¹ and Mary Booth.
1645. Plague in Manchester this yeare.²
1645. December 9. Baptized James, the sonne of Mr. Thomas Minshall of Manchester.
1645. february 9. Buried Mr. Bradshawe minister of Didsburie.
1647. March 14. Baptized Anne, the second daughter of Sir Edward Mosley Baronet, born March 3.
1650. April 9. Baptized Mary, the daughter of Mr. Clayton minister of Didsbury.
1650. August 9. Married Robert Powell Esq. and Mrs. Penelope Dowars, marrid at Trafford.
1651. Buried a sonne of Thomas Clayton minister.
1651. October 20. Buried Thomas Woode, who had binne clarke of Didsburie above three score yeares.
1651. December 23. Baptized Dorothe, the daughter of Peter Ledsame minister of Didsburie.
1657. December 4. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Barronett, who was lord of the Houghe and Manchester.

¹ Of Platt Hall in Rusholme, afterwards Major-General in the Parliamentary army and M.P. for Manchester.

² In this year the inhabitants of Manchester were reduced to such distress by this terrible visitation that, by an ordinance of Parliament dated December 9, a collection was directed to be made for the poor of the town of Manchester in all the churches and chapels of Westminster. How far Didsbury suffered is not known. The Registers of the Chapel show no increase in the number of interments over the average of former years, nor in any of the entries is the cause of death specified as in the like visitation in 1605; from which circumstance we may infer that Didsbury escaped its ravages.

- 1661. November 4. Buried James Hudson of Heaton Norris, who was supposed to be above sixe score yeares ould.
- 1658. September 10. Buried Mary, the daughter of James Jackson minister.
- 1661. December 11. Baptized Robert, y^e sonne of Robert Twyford gen.
- 1661. March 5. Buried Mrs. Anne Mosley of the Hough End widdow.
- 1662. August 24. Buried Mr. Robert Twyford of Didsbury.
- 1664. February 10. Jane the daughter of William Rowbothom of Withington, and Mary the daughter of Nicholas Townley of Withington, were baptized at Chorlton, there being noe minister at Didsbury.
- 1665. August 21. Buried Misteris Elin Ross from Barlow.
- 1665. October 21. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Barronet, who was lord of Hough and Manchester; died the 14 daye.
- 1665. January 25. Buried a poore woeman that was found drowned and cast up with a flood.
- 1666. July 9. Buried Elin, the daughter of James Jackson minister.
- 1667. December 3. Buried John Parre, a doctor of fissicke, died at Hough End.
- 1668. January 4. Buried Margaret, the wife of Master Richard Twyford of Didsbury.
- 1668. Collected att Didsbury y^s 7th of ffebruary 1688 upon y^e Breife for Captives within y^e Turkish dominions the sum of two shillings and three pence.¹
- 1668. February 10. Buried Misteris An, the daughter of Master Joseph Manard.
- 1669. December 26. Buried a small infant of Alexander Barlow.
- 1672. November 16. Collected at Didsbury for a fire in the parish of Saint Aldates ats Saint Toles, in the subburbs of our university and city of Oxford, the sum of three shillings.

¹ Vide *History of Denton Chapel*, (Chetham Miscellanies, vol. ii. p. 117.)

1673. May 12. Baptized John, the sonne of Mr. Robert Twyford of Didsbury.
1676. November 23. Buried Master Robert Twyford.
1676. January 3. Buried Master George Wakfield of Hough End.
1677. April 10. Buried Edward, the sonne of Edward Mosley Esquire.
1677. September 10. Buried ffancis, the sonne of Edward Mosley Esquire.
1680. August 24. Baptized John, the sonne of Richard Halliwell, who was born at Manchester upon Bartlemew day.
1685. September 13. Mr. Peter Shaw minister of Didsbury succeeded Mr. John Walker as minister of Didsbury this day.
1688. September 8. Buried Nicholas, sonne of Edward Mosley of Hulme.
1688. November 13 (?). Buried Maister Mosley Blenn [Bland], sonne to Sir John Blan of Kippis [Kippax] Park.
1690. Robertus filius Rob^oti Twyford de Didsbury fuit baptizatus die 30 Septembris 1690; ejusdem loci Pastor Ecclesiae factus 1726.
1695. July 31. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Knight; died the 22 and was buried the 31.
1697. July 14. Buried Dame Merriell Mosley, died the 8 of this instant July, and was buried the 14 day, who was relict to Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme Knight.
1700. June 6. Buried Mr. Henry Bancroft of Heaton Norris.
1704. March 12. Baptized Samuel, son of Mr. Henry Smith of Heaton Norris.
1710. August 28. Married Mr. John Guy of Stockport parish, and Mrs. Worrel of Wilmesly parish by Lic.
1710. January 12. Baptized Elizabeth, daughter to Mr. Henry Smith of Heaton.
1710. January 28. Baptized Ann, daughter to Mr. William Broome of Chorlton.

1712. September 1. Buried Frances, daughter to S^r John Bland Bar^t of Hulme Hall.
1712. November 5. Baptized William, son to Mr. William Broome of Chorlton.
1712. February 2. Married the Rev. Mr. Ellison, rector of Ashton-upon-Mersey, and Mrs. Worthington widow, of the parish of Manchester, by Lic.
1714. September 29. Baptized Hannah, daughter of William Broome of Chorlton.
1715. October 29. Buried S^r John Bland Bar^t of Hulme.
1717. February 13. Baptized Hildebrand, son to Hildebrand Jacob Esq. of Hulme Hall.
1718. August 2. Married Joshua Travis, chaplain of Manchester and Elizabeth Walker, both of the parish of Manchester: by Certif. from Mr. Assheton.
1718. September 5. Buried James Lester minister off Didsbury and Kiper off the Librery at the Collich.
1719. April 24. Baptized Thomas, son of Thomas Wright minister of Didsbury.
1720. October 19. Baptized William, son of Thomas Wright minister of Didsbury.
1721. November 21. Buried Samaull, a chance child of Mary Reenchaw.
1723. January 12. Baptized Mary, daughter of William and Mary Twyford of Didsbury.
1723. January 29. Baptized Willielmus filius Robti Twyford clerici et Mariæ uxoris, natus 8^{vo} die Januarii 1723, et vicesimo nono mensis predict fuit baptizatus, Glossop.
1724. January 30. Baptized Robert Tettlow, y^e son of John Tettlow minister of Birch.
1726. March 19. Baptized Martha filia Roberti Twyford clerici et Mariæ uxoris, nata fuit decimo tertio die Martii 1726-7, et decimo nono baptizata.
1728. January 13. Buried Thomas Chorlton de Grundey Hill Heaton, who left flour pounds per ann. to Didsbury

Church for ever, to be given in Bread by the Churchwardens each Sunday to such poor persons of the townships of Heaton, Didsbury, Withington, and Burnage as come to Divine Service. And twenty shillings per annum to the Schooll for ever, payable out of y^e land at Grundey Hill.

- 1728. February 7. Buried George Hamson de Allikers, — sese strangulavit.
- 1729. June 23. Buried Samuel Gilbody de Reddish, qui demersus erat.
- 1729. November 29. Buried Thomas Oax, vagus ex impensu de Heaton.
- 1729. March 12. Buried Valentinus filius Dominæ Chatbourn, spurius.
- 1730. April 5. Buried Gulielmus Twyford de Hulme, Doctor.
- 1730. May 6. Baptized John Tetlow, son of y^e Rev. Mr. Tetlow min^r of Birch.
- 1731. July 4. Buried Francisca filia Gulielmi Broome generosi de Chorlton.
- 1731. November 22. Married Richard Broome de Manchester, jurisconsultus, and Mary Benison of Bredbury, Stockport parish.
- 1732. February 2. Married Radolphus Henshaw de Wimslow, clericus, and Anna Shaw de Wimslow.
- 1732. March 4. Buried Martha Alcock de Withington, apud Conventiculum sepult.
- 1733. February 18. Buried Thomas Hough, a poor boy who was shot accidentally.
- 1734. July 26. Buried Peter Beech, a disbanded soldier.
- 1734. August 3. Buried D.A.B. alias The Honourable Lady Bland, relict of S^r John Bland Baronett; died July 26.
- 1734. December 13. Baptized Thomas, son of Mr. Charles Hobson of Withington.
- 1736. April 9. Buried Mary, wife of Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.

1736. November 27. Buried Mr. William Broom of Chorlton, St John Bland's steward.
1736. December 2. Married Revd. Mr. Samuel Townson curate of Oldham and Alice Yannis of Crompton; mar. by Lic.
1736. January 27. Buried Daniel, son to Mr. Henry Smith of Norris Hill.
1736. March 17. Buried Mr. Richard Lankford of Withington, Bachelor.
1737. March 13. Baptized John, son to Mr. Simister late of Stockport.
1737. March 16. Baptized John, son to Mr. John Hall of Heaton.
1738. April 17. Baptized Martha, daughter to Mr. Alexander Boardman of Withington.
1738. October 18. Baptized Robert, son to Mr. Robert France of Didsbury.
1738. February 13. Married Mr. John Siddall of Slade Hall in this parish, and Anne Bresgirdle of Hanford in Cheadle parish, by Lic.
1738. March 11. Buried John, the son of Mr. Robert France of Didsbury.
1739. April 8. Baptized Joseph, son to Mr. Charles Hobson, Levenshulme.
1739. July 19. Buried James, son to Mr. James Cox of Heaton Moor.
1739. February 28. Baptized Mary, daughter to Mr. Alexander Boardman of Withington.
1740. April 12. Buried Richard, son to Richard Broome of Manchester gen.
1740. June 11. Baptized Sarah, daughter to Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.
1741. June 20. Baptized Mary, daughter to Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.
1743. May 8. Baptized James, son to Mr. James Cox of Heaton.

1743. January 22. Married John Walmsley of Stockport parish, and Mary Twyford of Didsbury ; by Lic.
1744. June 28. Buried Martha, daughter to Robert Twyford minister ; died June 25.
1744. November 4. Baptized Henry, son to Rostern Mere of Heaton.
1745. May 4. Baptized Ann, daughter to Mr. Thomas Brierley of Heaton Norris.
1745. July 3. Married Mr. James Clough of Manchester, chapman, and Miss Anne Broome of Didsbury ; by Lic.
1745. July 25. Married the Rev. William Twyford and Miss Molly Broome both of Didsbury ; by License.
1745. December 10. A poor man buried at Didsbury, found dead in Heaton when the Rebels past.
1745. January 12. Baptized Charles, son to Mr. Hobson of Levenshulme.
1745. January 25. Buried Elizabeth, daughter to Mr. Richard Broome of Manchester.
1745. March 19. Buried Robert Twyford of Didsbury ; buried ith Chancel.
1746. October 28. Baptized Martha, daughter to y^e Rev. Mr. William Twyford minister rec^d yⁿ at Birch Ch. (she was born on y^e first day).
- 1746-7. March 2. Buried the Rev. Robert Twyford minister of Didsbury.
1747. April 23. Buried Mary, wife to Richard Broome of Manchester gent.
1747. June 8. Buried Richard, son to Richard Broome of Manchester gent.
1748. May 4. Buried John Hulme of Didsbury, from y^e Peel.
1748. June 10. Baptized Mary, daughter to y^e Rev. Mr. Twyford of Didsbury ; she was born May 8.
1748. December 21. Baptized Robert, son to Mr. Brierley of Heaton.
1750. June 3. Baptized Peter, son to Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.

1750. March 2. Baptized Robert, son of y^e Rev. William Twyford minister of Didsbury; born January 26.
1751. February 14. Baptized Frances, y^e daughter of y^e Rev. William Twyford of Didsbury.
1753. August 24. Buried John Hudson of Heaton Norris gent.
1754. April 17. Baptized Ann, daughter of the Rev. William Twyford of Didsbury; born March 26.
1754. June 7. Buried William, son of William Broome of Didsbury gent.
1754. September 27. Buried Martha, daughter of Mr. Boardman late of Withington.
1755. July 2. Baptized William, son of William Broome of Didsbury gent.
1756. May 27. Baptized Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. William Twyford minister of Didsbury.
1758. April 12. Baptized James, son of Mr. William Broome of Didsbury.
1758. September 5. Baptized William, son of the Rev. William Twyford minister hujus loci; born August 5.
1759. April 20. Baptized John, son of Mr. William Broome of Didsbury.
1759. September 19. Baptized Richard, son of Epaphroditus Bullock.
1760. January 18. Buried Richard Broome of Didsbury gent. an attorney-at-law.

Two Wardens are annually elected for the chapelry—one chosen by the minister, and the other by the inhabitants in vestry assembled. Each of the four townships returns its sidesman.

1613. John Twyford.

Robert Brooke.

1628. Laurence Barlow.

Nicholas Langford.

1638. Robert Bancroft.

John Barlow.

1639. John Barlow.

John Bancroft.

1640. John Rudd.

John Smith.

1641. Edmund Chorlton.

Thomas Rudd.

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| 1642. William Langford.
George Smyth. | 1671. Alexander Walker.
William Rowbotham. |
| 1644. Richard Chorlton.
George Jackson. | 1672. Richard Townley.
Edward Hulme. |
| 1645. Thomas Birch.
Nicholas Hoult. | 1673. Robert Ridgway.
Edward Worsley. |
| 1652. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1674. John Chorlton.
Richard Heywood. |
| 1653. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1675. Richard Heywood.
Peter Fletcher. |
| 1654. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1678. William Garnett.
Edward Linney. |
| 1655. Jonathan Gee.
William Rowbotham. | 1679. Alexander Boardman.
James Arstall. |
| 1656. Richard Townley.
Thomas Smith. | 1681. William Birch. |
| 1658. James Boardman.
Alexander Wood. | 1684. Thomas Garnett.
Edmund Fletcher. |
| 1659. William Garnett.
Thomas Rydings. | 1685. Thomas Rydings.
Edmund Fletcher. |
| 1660. William Blomeley.
Robert Baguley. | 1686. Richard Thorton.
William Cotterell. |
| 1661. Thomas Fletcher.
Henry Rydings. | 1690. Richard Fletcher.
John Brookes. |
| 1663. William Birch.
George Fletcher. | 1691. Richard Fletcher.
John Brookes. |
| 1665. John Seddon.
William Baguley. | 1701. William Blomeley.
John Didsbury. |
| 1667. Richard Townley.
Francis Mosley. | 1702. Thomas Wood. |
| 1668. Edward Langford.
Nicholas Wood. | 1703. Thomas Wood. |
| 1669. Nicholas Wood. | 1704. Joseph Alcock. |
| 1670. Alexander Wood.
Uriah Hoult. | 1705. William Henshaw.
Nicholas Chorlton. |
| | 1706. William Henshaw.
Nicholas Chorlton. |

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| 1707. William Henshaw. | 1728. Samuel Walker. |
| Nicholas Chorlton. | William Langford. |
| 1708. Thomas Wood. | 1729. John Holme. |
| James Boardman. | John Shuttleworth. |
| 1709. Thomas Wood. | 1730. John Holme. |
| James Boardman. | John Shuttleworth. |
| 1710. Richard Oliver. | 1731. William Blomeley. |
| 1711. Alexander Wood. | Alexander Boardman. |
| James Bailey. | 1732. Robert Twyford. |
| 1712. John Rudd. | Richard Oliver. |
| Thomas Smith. | 1733. John Cheetham. |
| 1715. Samuel Brown. | John Rudd. |
| Thomas Breckel. | 1734. Thomas Birch. |
| 1716. Thomas Thorniley. | John Bayley. |
| Richard Oliver. | 1735. Thomas Birch. |
| 1717. William Langford. | John Bayley. |
| Edward Hampson. | 1736. Thomas Rudd. |
| 1718. William Barlow. | George Fletcher. |
| James Scholefield. | 1737. John Shalcross. |
| 1719. John Lamb. | John Hulme. |
| 1721. Edward Norris. | 1738. William Bayley. |
| Richard Hampson. | Samuel Chorlton. |
| 1722. Edward Norris. | 1739. Samuel Thornhill. |
| Richard Hampson. | Ralph Worsley. |
| 1723. Henry Smith. | 1740. Samuel Barlow. |
| Thomas Blomeley. | Thomas Garnett. |
| 1724. John Chorlton. | 1741. Samuel Barlow. |
| George Whitelegg. | John Boardman. |
| 1725. George Fletcher. | 1742. John Cheetham. |
| Richard Fletcher. | Samuel Goolden. |
| 1726. Robert Twyford. | 1743. John Cheetham. |
| Thomas Garnett. | Samuel Goolden. |
| 1727. Robert Twyford. | 1744. John Hudson. |
| Thomas Garnett. | Joseph Watson. |

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| 1745. Richard Wyatt. | 1762. Samuel Aldford. |
| James Kelsall. | Ralph Hamnet. |
| 1746. John Hulme. | 1763. Edward Hulme. |
| James Didsbury. | 1764. Thomas Blomeley. |
| 1747. James Davenport. | Samuel Cheetham |
| John Heapitt. | 1765. Ralph Worsley. |
| 1748. William Wood. | James Jenkinson. |
| John Hampson. | 1766. Ralph Worsley. |
| 1749. Robert Twyford. | Edward Langford. |
| Thomas Blomeley. | 1767. John Heap. |
| 1750. Samuel Walker. | Joshua Watt. |
| William Garnett. | 1768. Alexander Goolden. |
| 1751. Thomas Chorlton. | James Smith. |
| Thomas Whitelegg. | 1769. Alexander Goolden. |
| 1752. Joseph Alcock. | James Smith. |
| Edward Langford. | 1770. Jeremiah Bibby. |
| 1753. Edward Norris. | William Birch. |
| Richard Wyatt. | 1771. John Cheetham. |
| 1754. John Chorlton. | Samuel Mycock. |
| Jeremiah Barlow. | 1772. John Cheetham. |
| 1755. Thomas Hulme. | Samuel Mycock. |
| Samuel Rowbotham. | 1773. John Hampson. |
| 1756. Robert Hesketh. | John Davenport. |
| John Taylor. | 1774. John Hampson. |
| 1757. Robert Twyford. | Samuel Butterworth. |
| John Brundreth. | 1775. William Watson. |
| 1758. John Rigby. | James Golden. |
| Hugh Mottram. | 1776. William Watson. |
| 1759. James Shelmerdine. | James Golden. |
| Robert Garside. | 1777. John Heapey. |
| 1760. Robert Blomeley. | John Birch. |
| Samuel Norris. | 1778. John Heapey. |
| 1761. Samuel Walker. | John Birch. |
| Richard Jepson. | |

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| 1779. John Heapey. | 1796. John Hampson. |
| John Birch. | Thomas Jepson. |
| 1780. Thomas Foiles. | 1797. Thomas Jepson. |
| Thomas Rudd. | James Smith. |
| 1781. William Broome. | 1798. John Rudd. |
| James Gardner. | James Smith. |
| 1782. William Broome. | 1799. John Rudd. |
| James Gardner. | James Smith. |
| 1783. John Rudd. | 1800. John Rudd. |
| Edward Lankford. | Charles Wood. |
| 1784. John Rudd. | 1801. Thomas Pedley. |
| Edward Lankford. | 1802. John Rudd. |
| 1785. Thomas Wood. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| Thomas Fildes. | 1803. John Rudd. |
| 1786. Robert Linney. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| James Rudd. | 1804. John Rudd. |
| 1787. Thomas Hulme. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| John Orford. | 1805. John Rudd. |
| 1788. Thomas Hulme. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| John Orford. | 1806. Benjamin Brookes. |
| 1789. Peter Taylor. | John Hilton. |
| John Heywood. | 1807. John Hilton. |
| 1790. John Fletcher. | Thomas Rudd. |
| Thomas Hesketh. | 1808. Thomas Rudd. |
| 1791. Daniel Adkinson. | John Hilton. |
| Thomas Hesketh. | 1809. Samuel Goolden. |
| 1792. Daniel Atkinson. | John Hilton. |
| Daniel Massey. | 1810. Samuel Goolden. |
| 1793. Daniel Massey. | John Hilton. |
| Joseph Goodier. | 1811. John Hilton. |
| 1794. Joseph Goodier. | Samuel Goolden. |
| Daniel Massey. | 1812. Robert Feilden. |
| 1795. John Hampson. | Thomas Hudson. |
| Thomas Jepson. | |

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| 1813. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1830. John Wood.
James Worsley. |
| 1814. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1831. James Worsley.
Jonathan Langford. |
| 1815. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1832. James Worsley.
John Hampson. |
| 1816. Robert Feilden.
Robert Parker. | 1833. William Scragg.
Joseph Chadwick. |
| 1817. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1834. William Scragg.
Joseph Chadwick. |
| 1818. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1835. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1819. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1836. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1820. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1837. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1821. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1838. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1822. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1839. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1823. Richard Simpson.
Joseph Birley. | 1840. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1824. George Webster.
Thomas Mottram. | 1841. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1825. George Webster.
Thomas Mottram. | 1842. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1826. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1843. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1827. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1844. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1828. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1845. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1829. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1846. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |

1847. John Ogden.	1853. G. F. Robinson.	} Double return.
James Bradburn.	John Thorniley.	
1848. John Ogden.	1854. John Moss.	
James Bradburn.	James Dorrington.	
1849. John Ogden.	John Moss.	}
James Bradburn.	John Thorniley.	
1850. Herbert Birley.	1855. John Moss.	}
William Bowden.	Joseph Bull.	
1851. William Hobbes.	1856. John Moss.	}
John Thorniley.	Joseph Bull.	
1852. William Hobbes.		
John Thorniley.		

Extracts from the Chapel-wardens' Accounts : —

1645. Received of George Blomeley of the church stocke	02 00 00
— Received of the sequestrators towards the re- paire of the chansell ¹	01 10 00
— Received of Mary Whitelegge of Gattley for the use of the church stocke ..	00 07 00

¹ In 1643 a committee was appointed by ordinance of Parliament for sequestering "the estates of delinquents, papists, spies and intelligencers" throughout the kingdom, directing moreover that all bishops, deans and other persons who have raised or shall raise arms against the Parliament, or shall be in actual war against it, or shall have contributed any money, arms, &c. towards the force of the enemy, shall have their property sequestered into the hands of sequestrators and committees in this order named. The committee for the county of Lancaster held its sittings usually at Preston, and was composed of the following persons: Sir Ralph Assheton, Sir Thomas Stanley, Sir Ralph Assheton of Downham, Ralph Assheton of Middleton Esq., Richard Shuttleworth Esq., Alexander Rigby Esq., John Moore Esq., Richard Holland Esq., Edward Butterworth, Esq., John Bradshaw Esq., William Ashurst Esq., Peter Egerton Esq., George Dodding Esq., Nicholas Cunliffe Esq., John Starkie Esq., Thomas Birch Esq., Thomas Fell Esq., Robert Cunliffe Gent., Robert Curwen Gent., and John Nowell Gent. By this new arrangement tithe ceased to be collected. Church-lands &c. were confiscated to the State; the clergy were paid out of the common fund, and the cost of repairs of churches and chapels was defrayed from the same source.

1645.	Paide unto Mrs. Bradshawe for the goodes we ^h wee bought for Mr. Cleton	03 00 00
—	Paide for one pewter basson to baptise children in ¹	00 03 05
—	Paide for the Directorie for Mr. Bradshawe. ²	
—	Paide for three ordinances of parlement — one for the ellectinge and chooseinge of elders, and two for the observation of the Sabbath and ffaste dayes.....	00 01 01
—	Paide for the booke of Devine right of Church Government.....	00 02 04
—	Spent in goinge to hyre Mr. Shelmerdine	00 00 09
—	Laide forth to give Mr. Smith entertainment...	00 03 00
—	Spent to procure Mr. Marler to teach one day .	00 00 04
—	Paide for five sackes of mosse and the carrige..	00 01 08
—	Paide in charges and in goinge to the seques- trat ^{rs} and of the workemen	00 13 00
—	Paide unto the ringers for ringinge the firste yeare uppon the king's holiday	00 03 00
1652.	Spent upon the ringers y ^e fift of November ...	00 04 06
1659.	Paide ffor a diall	00 06 00
—	Paide ffor lead to fasten the diall	00 01 00
—	Paide to William Hunt for fitting the head of the cross for the diall	00 00 06
—	Paide to the ringers the 24 of Maie	00 01 00

¹ About this time the use of fonts in churches was discontinued as superstitious, and it was directed that children be baptised from a bason "in the face of the congregation, where the people may most conveniently see and heare, and not in the places where fonts in the time of popery were unfitly and superstitiously placed." — See *History of the Ancient Chapel of Blackley*, note, p. 84.

² On prohibiting the further use of the Book of Common Prayer by an ordinance of Parliament, dated January 3, 1644, it was decreed that "A Directory for the Publique worship of God throughout the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland" should be immediately issued, which accordingly was done. This is the "Directorie" alluded to in the text, and Mr. Bradshaw, for whom it was purchased, was the then minister of Didsbury Chapel.

[At this period the Holy Communion was administered at Didsbury four times during the year, viz. on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Whitsunday, and Michaelmas.]

1660.	Laid downe on the coronation daie ¹	00 04 04
—	Paide to Jeferie of Gatley for fetlinge the bells .	00 02 06
1671.	Spent when wee were warned to meete by y ^e constables about harth-lay ²	00 01 00
—	Paide to y ^e clark for his wages	00 05 00
—	Spente on Mr. Worsleye when hee preached one day att our chappell	00 02 00
—	Paide for a new byar.....	00 16 00
—	Spent in goeing to visitt y ^e alehouses at sev'all tymes with the assistants	00 02 00
—	Spent on y ^e ringers on y ^e 29 of May, beinge y ^e king's birth and restauraçon daye	00 03 00

Form of Summons to the Minister of Didsbury to attend the Bishop's Visitation :

To the Minister of Didsbury.

These are to give notice y^t you make yo^r owne p'sonal appearance at the Visitaçon of the Right Revnd ffather in God John [Wilkins] L^d Bp. of Chester, to be holden in the Parish Church of Manchester on Saturday the tenth day of June next, betwixt the houres of nine and eleaven in y^e forenoone ; And alsoe to cite all ministers of hospitalls, lecturers or stipendaries and schoolemasters, alsoe all practisers of phisic or chirurgery, likewise all ffarmers or sequestrators of tythes, parish clerkes and midwifes,³ to

¹ Charles II.

² This tax was imposed by Act 15 Car. II. cap. 13, and was repealed by Act 1 William and Mary, cap. 10. For further particulars relating to the circumstances under which it was first levied, and its extreme unpopularity, vide *History of Denton Chapel*, (Chetham Miscellanies, vol. ii.) note, pp. 99, 100.

³ The practice of granting licenses on the part of bishops at their visitations, to surgeons and midwives, however foreign to our present ideas of episcopal duty and

appeare at y^e time and place afores^d, and then and there to pay all p^rcuraçons, pençons, synodalls and dues due and belonging to y^e s^d L^d Bp. by reason of his s^d Visitaçon; and alsoe to p^rduce, exhibite yo^r and their Lett^{rs} of Orders,

responsibility, was at one time universal. By Statute 3 Henry VIII. cap. 11, it was provided that, "Forasmuche as the science and connyng of physyke and surg^{ie}, to the p^rfecte knowlege wherof bee requisite both grete lernyng and ripe exp^{ie}nce, ys daily within this royalme exe^cised by a grete multitude of ignoraunt p^rsones of whom the grete partie have no man' of insight in the same nor in any other kynde of lernyng; some also can no l^res on the boke, soofarfurth that com'on artifice's, as smythes, wevers and women boldely and custumably take upon them grete curis and thyngys of great difficultie, in the which they partely use socery and whicherafte, partely applie such medicyne unto the disease as be verry noyous and nothing metely therfore, to the high displeasure of God, great infamy to the faculties and the grevous hurte, damage and destruccion of many of the king^e liege people, most sp^ally of them that cannot descerne the uncun'yng from the cunnyng — Be it therfore, to the suertie and comfort of all man' people, by the auctoritie of thys p^rsent Parliament enacted, that noo p^rson within the citie of London nor within vij myles of the same take upon hym to exe^cise and occupie as a phisicion or surgion except he be first examined and approved and admitted by the Bisshop of London or by the Dean of Poules for the tyme beyng, calling to hym or them iiij doctours of phisyk, and for surg^{ie} other exp^t p^rsones in that facultie, and for the first examynacion such as they shall thynk convenient, and aftward alway iiij of them that have been soo approved, upon the payn of forfeytour for ev^y moneth that they doo occupie as phisicians or surgeons not admitted nor examined after the tenour of thys acte of vth, to be employed, the oon half therof to thuse of our Sov^aign Lord the Kyng, and the other half therof to any p^rson that wyll sue for it by accion of dette in which no wageour of lawe nor p^rteccion shalbe allowed; And ov^r thys that noo p^rson out of the seid citie and p^rincte of vij myles of the same, except he have been as is seid before approved in the same, take upon hym to ex^cise and occupie as a phisicion or surgeon in any diocesse within thys royalme, but if he be first examined and approved by the bisshop of the same diocesse, or he beyng out of the diocesse by his vicar gen^{al}, either of them calling to them such expert p^rsons in the seid faculties as there discrecion shall thynk convenyent, and gyffyng their lett's testimonials under ther sealle to hym that they shall soo approve upon like payn to them that occupie the cont^rie to thys acte as is above seid to be leyved and employed after the fourme before exp^ssed. Provided alway that thys acte nor any thyng therein conteyned be p^rjudiciall to the univ^sities of Oxford and Cantebrigge or either of them, or to any privilegys g^unted to them." In one of the Act Books of Chester diocese an entry occurs under the date August 14, 1667, of a license granted to William Hartley of Manchester to practise "artem chirurgⁱ per totam dioc^e Cest." A manuscript volume once belonging to Bishop

Instituçons, Inducçons, ffaculties, Licenses to preach, serve the cure, or to teache y^e schoole subscripçons to the declaraçon mençoed in y^e Act of Uniformity, and all other Licenses and Dispensaçons whatsoever; and alsoe to cite all chappell wardens to appeare at y^e same time and place then and there to give in and make a full and true answe^r and p^rsentm^t to the Booke of Artes herewith sent unto them. You are alsoe to sumon then and there to appeare all exco^uto^{rs} of any Wills not yet duely proved, and the occupiers of any deced^{ts} estates who have not by just authority duely administred y^e same y^t they doe appeare and p^rve y^e said Wills and take upon them the due admraçon of such estates; and further to doe and receive as to justice shall appertaine. Dated the fourth daye of May anno Do^{mi}. 1671.

GULIEL. WILSON, Reg^r Dep.

1673.	Spent on Mr. Yannes and Mr. Pachy when they preached at o ^r chappell.	00 00 06
—	Disbursed for a tippet for the minister	01 04 02
—	Spent when Mr. Adams preached att o ^r church	00 01 00
	[Other preachers during the year were Messrs. Jackson, Worsley and Beeley.]	
—	Spent at Chedle boate ¹	00 01 06

Warburton contains, amongst various other forms, "Licentia Obstetricis." The permission to exercise the vocation runs thus: "Eandem A.B. ad exercendam Artem et Officium Obstetricis in et per totam diocesis Gloucestrensem prædictam admisit, et Literas Testimoniales superinde fieri decrevit." And in the Articles to be enquired into in the province of Canterbury in the year 1571, the question is directed to be asked—"Whether any use charms or unlawful prayers, or invocations in Latin or otherwise, and *namely, midwives in the time of women's travail of child.*" In the oath taken by Eleanor Pead, before being licensed by the archbishop to be a midwife, a similar clause occurs: "Also I will not use any kind of sorcery or incantations in the time of the travail of any woman."—*Notes and Queries*, vol. ii. pp. 408, 499.

¹ Gatley Ford or Ferry, which before the erection of Cheadle Bridge over the Mersey was the highway to Manchester. Over this ferry the Pretender's forces passed on their departure from Manchester in 1745, on which occasion they seized as

1673.	Paide for bread att Easter, 00 00 04; gave 00 00 04 for carryinge y ^e wyne ¹	
1674.	Spent att the Visitation.....	00 01 06
1675.	Spent at Didsbury when Mr. Wrigley preached.	00 01 00
1677.	Spent about those not chargeable with hearth- money.....	00 00 04
1679.	Paide ffor the woollen acte ²	00 00 06
—	Spent on Mr. Lomax preaching in our parson's absence at Wimslow on two severall occasions	00 01 02
—	Spent in a treat of our parson on Chirsmas Day	00 00 04
1681.	Paide when Mester Yanes preached	00 00 10
—	Paide for tow peuter fflagins.....	00 04 00
1697.	Spent when y ^e parson and I went to gather money for y ^e church w ^{ch} was burnt.. ..	00 01 00
—	Paide a woman w ^{ch} came w th a letter of request in y ^e parson's chamber.....	00 01 06
1698.	Spent when Mr. Dickens was here to preach...	00 01 06

a hostage, carrying him with them as far as Derby, James Bayley of Withington Esq., to enforce the payment of the sum of £5000, levied on the inhabitants of Manchester during their hasty visit.

¹ The Collegiate Church of Manchester formerly supplied wine for the Easter Communion at Didsbury, a custom in all probability dating from the first erection of a chapel there, and continued down to a comparatively recent period, as appears from subsequent entries. In the twelfth century when the cup was first withheld from the laity, to whom the Holy Communion was administered under one kind only, it became the practice to give unconsecrated wine to those who had communicated, a custom still prevalent in some Roman Catholic countries. This doubtless would lead to an increased consumption of wine, and as the Rubric lays special stress on the duty of communicating on Easter Day this provision made by the mother church for the relief of the filial chapel becomes more intelligible. Similar allusion to the providing of wine specially for the Easter Communion is found in "Inventories and Account Rolls of the Benedictine Houses of Yarrow and Monk Wearmouth" (Publications of the Surtces Society): "1370, In vino empto pro diebus festivalibus et communione parochianorum ad Paschā xj^s vj^d."

² An Act passed in the year 1679, directing the interment of all corpses in shrouds of woollen, instead of linnen as heretofore, and intended to encourage the woollen manufactures of the kingdom and to lessen the importation of linnen. It was repealed by Act 54 George III. cap. 108. — Vide *History of Blackley Chapel*, note, p. 85.

1698.	Spent when we gathered y ^e monys for y ^e banish'd Protestants	00 01 06
1699.	Paide towards the Black	00 18 00
—	Paide for y ^e surpris when it was eaten.....	00 00 04 ^{ob}
1700.	[Strange preachers during the year, Parson Hind, Mr. Dickins, Mr. Clayton.]	
1701.	[Strange preachers during the year, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Bann, Mr. Morton, Mr. Boulton, Mr. Ash.]	
—	Paid to the ringers when the Queen was proclaimed	00 03 01
1704.	Paid when we went to Manchester about changing the bells	00 01 06
1706.	Paide when the bells were taken down	00 05 00
—	Paide to y ^e Manchester church-wardens for change of bells ¹	20 02 00

¹ In this year a question arose as to the re-casting of the Manchester Collegiate Church bells in consequence of one or more of them being cracked, and at a meeting of the parishioners, convened by the churchwardens, it was resolved at once to carry the proposition into effect. From this entry it appears that the inhabitants of Didsbury selected certain of the now condemned Manchester bells, for which they gave in return a part of their own peal and the further sum of £20. Amongst the Egerton Papers at Heaton is the following statement of the proceedings of the Manchester churchwardens in relation to the re-casting of their own bells:

A Relac'on of y^e m^rs of fact &c. of Manchestr Bells,
from the flirst pt. being broken to 30th of August 1707.

To the best of my memory ab^t 5 years since y^e flifth bell was burst, by w^{ch} y^e whole peale was supposed to be so disordered as to require all to be cast a new. Y^e p^rish upon it mett, wⁿ the town of Manch^r offer'd y^t in case y^e bells was newcast ov^r and above their quotas of church-lay to advance £100 if y^e p^rish thought fit, towards adding two more bells to y^e six old ones. Y^e resolu^con of y^e p^rish at y^t convention was not to cast any of y^e bells but to turn y^e clapper to y^e sound sides of the burst bell, w^{ch} was accordingly done; and in y^t condic^on y^e bells rested, tho' not tuneable, till about 20 months since y^e 6th or biggest bell burst, w^{ch} wth y^e other burst 5th, accoumpting from y^r weight (y^e charge of casting bells) was more yⁿ half y^e whole sett by 365^{lb}. Y^e bursting of y^e last bell happen'd so near y^e close of y^e year y^t y^e churchward^s for that year, having not time to finish anything they should undertake of bell matters, in y^t order the bells continued till y^e new churchward^s was chosen, amongst whom it was agreed to signifye the yⁿ p^resent circumstances of y^e bells to S^r Edward

1706. Paide when y ^e bells were fetched from Man-	
chester	00 10 00
— Spent when y ^e bells were hung	00 08 00

Cooke [Coke] and S^r Jo. Egerton, by a special messenger for expedition (as being by y^{ir} estates in y^e p^{ish} so considerably concerned in y^e charge) to desire their advise and know y^{ir} will in y^e matter. The churchward^{ns} obtained no ans^wr, but for one by word of mouth of y^e messenger was by y^m worthy gentlemⁿ referr'd to Mr. Nathan Ardern. To him for ans^wr they apply'd; he declined giving any ans^wr from them, but appeared very reserved, — askt for an aeknowledgm^t from y^e churchward^{ns} of two p^ticular seats for y^m gentlemⁿ beforenamed. The churchward^{ns} did not think it in y^{ir} power to dispose of seats in church to p^ticular families, — told Mr. Ardern y^t as farr as they knew, all y^e seates in y^e body of y^e church belonged to y^e publiek, and none had p^ticular priviledg to any seats there; — if them worthy gentlemⁿ had good titles to y^e seats the churchward^{ns} was not for depriving any body of y^{ir} rights any more yⁿ giving up those of y^e publiek. Nothing of ans^wr cou'd y^e churchwardens gett frō Mr. Ardern then or since (as ans^wr to y^{ir} l^{rs}) from S^r Edward or S^r John, nor can guess w^t it was excepting it was the demanding of y^e seates. The conferenee aboves^d was wth Mr. Ardern of Saturday; Yⁿ y^e churchward^{ns} told him y^t the day following they desired to give publiek notice at church for calling of a p^{ish} meeting to consid^r of y^e bells &c. on Friday following. Mr. Ashe chaplain publisht y^e notice accordingly. Pursuant to it y^e p^{ish} mett (the bells taken down in ord^r for y^e p^{ish}-ioner's view), Mr. Ardern wth some of his neighbours yⁿ p^{sent}. After some debate wheth^r y^e whole sett, or only y^e two burst bells should be neweast, y^e farr great^r part of y^e parish convened agreed for newcasting the six bells, and for defraying y^e charge at y^t time assess'd y^mselves 6 church-lays for y^e year 1706 as requisit for y^t year's business: (Note — a church-lay is £40, and 2 church-lays is expended for bread and wine and com'on repaires communibus annis.) The p^{ish}ioners y^t had argued agst y^e recasting all y^e bells, and only for neweasting y^e two burst ones, wⁿ y^e p^ticular voices came to be demanded by poll, refused to vote, all except Mr. Lever of Collihurst, so y^t excepting him y^e voting p^t unanimously agreed of casting y^e whole six and making y^e order for y^e s^d levy of six church-lays, as may and does appear upon record in y^e P^{ish} Book. So ended y^e s^d meeting, and according to y^e s^d order yⁿ made has y^e churchward^{ns} acted at y^{ir} own charge, and hung up an addic'on of two new bells. Some in y^e p^{ish} refuses to pay y^{ir} lays (of w^{ch} Mr. Arderne is esteemed y^e chiefest abett^r, y^e farr greatest part of y^e refusers consisting of tennants to y^m two worthy Barr^{ts}.) Y^e churchward^{ns} are now suing in y^e Eccleial Court at Chest^r some 16 or thereab^{ts} of y^e p^{sons} refusing to pay. The course of y^e suite so farr has been this: After citae'on and appearance, y^e churchwardens, y^e p^{ff}, gave into court y^{ir} articles, in w^{ch}, rehearsed according to form and matter of fact, y^{ir} reasons for demanding y^{ir} p^ticular church-layes — y^e def^{ts} putt in y^{ir} ans^wrs upon oath, in w^{ch} they sett forth they believe almost all y^e p^{ff}s assertions in y^e articles to be false suggested. (A copy of y^e def^{ts} ans^wrs may be seen at Mr. Willimot's proctor at D^{rs} Com'ons.) The p^{ff}s

1706.	Spent when Mr. Collier preached	00 00 09
—	Paid ffor a book on the thanksgiving-day	00 00 08
—	Paid ffor a book on the fast-day.....	00 00 08

have minuitly, I think, proved upon oath (as may appear by y^{ir} wittness dep'ons) all y^e assertions of y^{ir} articles. The churchwardens are often allarmed wth threats of p'hibic'ons to this court or appeales to superior. But thus y^e case now stands : Y^e def^{ts} charge of y^e suite is p'tly if not cheifly maintained at the charge (tho' paid with reluctance and wrested wth cruelty) of persons, some forced and some decoyed, associated for that end, — some whose church-lays are already paid by better considering the matter, and some who yet have not shewed y^mselves.

The computed charge of casting y^e six bells :

	li.	s.	d.
Imp. Their carriage to Atcham Bridge ... 65 ^{cwt} 3 ^{qr} 5 ^{lb} at 2 ^s 9 ^d p ^r 120 ^{lbs}	08	09	00
Their addition of weight..... 9 ^{cwt} 0 ^{qr} 12 ^{lb} at 5 ^{li} 12 ^s p ^r cwt.	51	00	00
Allowance of 4 ^s p ^r cent for waste of melting . 2 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 11 ^{lb} at 5 ^{li} 12 ^s	13	03	00
Their carriage from Salop..... 78 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 27 ^{lb} at 3 ^s p ^r 120 ^{lbs}	11	00	00
Their charge of casting	70	00	00
The frame and hanging	60	00	00

Mem.—Towards y^e frame will gett something from town

of Manch^r for rooms of two new bells to lessen this charge. 213 12 00

The very charge had only y^e two burst bells been cast :

Their carriage to Atcham	36 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 8 ^{lb} at 2 ^s 9 ^d p ^r 120 ^{lbs}	04 13 00
Allowance of 4 ^s p ^r cent for waste in melting ... 1 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 5 ^{lb} at 12 ^d	07 05 00	
Lowest price for casting em alone	42 15 00	
Their carriage from Salop, viz..... 36 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 8 ^{lb} at 3 ^s p ^r 120 ^{lb}	05 02 00	
Frame and hanging	60 00 00	

119 15 00

To w^{ch} adding the new mettall bought..... 51 00 00

The difference (including y^e s^d mettall added) of casting } 42 17 00
the six and the two is just }

The inhabitants of Didsbury do not appear to have been long contented with their bargain, for in 1727 the whole peal was re-cast, as is evidenced by the bells themselves, which bear the following inscriptions :

1. Let us ring for the Church and the King. 1727.
2. Prosperity to all our Benefactors. 1727.
3. Lady Ann Bland and S^r John her son, benefactors. 1727.
4. Robert Twyford, minister. 1727.
5. William Twyford and Tho^s Whitelegg, churchwardens. 1727.
6. Ab^r. Rudhall of Gloecster cast us all. 1727.

We have notice (*Ducatus Lancastria*, vol. ii. p. 138) of a bell or bells at Didsbury

1708.	Spent when Thomas Garnet begged the communion cann ¹	00 01 06
—	Spent when we did fetch y ^e flagon.....	00 00 06
1709.	Paid on the thanksgiving-day when we conducted about the parson	00 02 06
1711.	Spent when y ^e augmentation money was paid..	00 01 00
1712.	Spent on Christmas Day with a strange parson	00 01 00
1715.	Spent with Mr. Dawson in gathering his wages	00 00 06
—	Spent November 5 and 16 when news came about the victory at Preston.....	00 04 00
1717.	Paid for ringing on King George's return	00 01 00
1727.	Spent when y ^e yewtree was sett	00 01 03
1728.	Paid when Mr. Oldfield preached	00 01 00
[Other preachers during the year, Messrs. Bellis and Rigby.]		

early in the reign of Queen Mary, who in the first year of her reign directed a commission to proceed from the Duchy Court of Lancaster, enquiring what lands, tenements, bells, chalices, plate, jewels, stocks of kine, sheep, money and other things belonging to chantries in the county of Lancaster had been withheld by the several religious bodies to whom they had originally belonged, in violation of a former commission issued in the seventh year of Edward VI., directing their surrender to the King. Under the head Manchester Parish occurs the chapel of Didsbury.

¹ About this date four large silver flagons were presented to the Collegiate Church of Manchester, whereupon the four pewter ones hitherto in use were given to the chapels of Didsbury, Gorton, Newton and Stretford. The communion-plate belonging to the chapel is all comparatively modern, and consists of—

1. One small silver visiting paten, "given to the Chappel of Didsbury in the parish of Manchester, 1741."
2. One small silver visiting cup, inscribed "I $\frac{S}{H}$ Belongs to the Chapel of Didsbury, 1743."
3. One silver paten, "the gift of Thomas Briarly of Heaton Norris to Didsbury Chapel, April 10, 1743."
4. One large silver flagon, "the gift of Joseph Boardman of Manchester to the Church of Didsbury, A.D. 1753."
5. One silver cup, the gift of Mrs. Frances Bayley to Didsbury Chapel, 1813.
6. One silver alms dish and two patens, given in 1841 by Thomas Darwell Esq. of Manchester, patron.
7. There is also a silver cup, marked A. M. with a crest, a lion rampant issuing from a coronet; supposed to be the gift of Lady Ann Mosley.

1734. Spent when we went to Withington to hear
Thomas Chorlton's will read 00 01 08
1736. Gave to Withington rush-cart 2s.
—— [Strange preachers during the year, Messrs. Norris and
Peak.]
- Paid for the serplless 12 yards of Holland £2 11s. 8d.
- Spent when I went for the wine at Easter 6d.
1743. Given June 26 to y^e ringers on y^e approach of
y^e news of y^e victory we obtained at Dettin-
gen 00 01 06
1745. Gave to y^e ringers when news was brought of
y^e conquest over y^e rebels..... 00 04 00
1746. [Strange preachers during the year, Messrs. Brooke and
Hughes.]
- Paid when I went for the wine at Easter 6d.
- Paid for hay for th' parson's horse 3d.
- Spent when the young parson [Rev. William Twyford]
first began to preach 2s.

The ancient Day School at Didsbury was erected time out of memory upon a plot of land which formed part of the Barlow Moor waste, belonging to the lord of the manor of Withington, to whom a chief-rent of three shillings per annum was formerly paid in respect of the premises. This chief-rent is now payable to the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden, the late Robert Fielden Esq. having purchased it of the said lord of the manor. It received its first endowment under the will of Sir Edward Mosley Bart., who died in 1665, the testator's intentions being carried into effect by his successor, Edward Mosley Esq.

An Indenture made the thirtieth day of December in the year 1685, between Edward Mosley of Hulme in the county of Lancaster Esq. upon the one part, and John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, alias Banks, both of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster yeomen upon the other part, — Witnesseth That the said Edward Mosley, in pursuance and for the performing of the last

will and testament of Sir Edward Mosley, late of Hough End within the said county of Lancaster, Baronet, deceased, hath granted, bargained, sold, enfeofed and confirmed, and by the present doth grant &c. unto the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, alias Banks, all that and those several closes and parcels of land commonly called and known by the names of Broom Field, the Carr Meadow, and the Water Field, with their appurtenances, situated, lying and being on the south side of the river Mersey, reputed and taken to be within the township of Didsbury in the manor of Withington in the said county of Lancaster, containing by estimation four acres of land or thereabouts, be the same more or less, heretofore in the tenure or occupation of Nicholas Linney deceased or of his assign or assigns, and now in the possession of the said Edward Mosley or of his assign or undertenant, together with all ways, advantages, &c. unto the same belonging (except only common of pasture and turbary), To have and to hold the said closes and premises to them the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley their heirs and assigns for ever, to the uses, intents and purposes that the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley their heirs and assigns shall and will permit the profits thereof to be employed for the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Didsbury for ever, so as the same schoolmaster be such as is approved of and comes in there by the consent and good liking of the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns, lords of the manor of Withington aforesaid, yielding and paying therefor yearly unto the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns for ever one pepper-corn at the feast of St. Martin the bishop in winter, if the same be demanded, and also doing and performing all such suit and service to the courts of the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns for the manor of Withington, as other tenants of the manor use to do. And the said Edward Mosley doth for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators covenant and agree to and with the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, that the said Edward Mosley and every other person and persons lawfully claiming the premises . . .

[illegible]. And the said Edward Mosley doth further by these presents institute and appoint his trusty and well-beloved William Twyford and Richard Blomeley, servants of the said Edward Mosley, his true and lawful attorneys jointly and severally for him and in his name to enter into the said lands aforesaid or into any part thereof in the name of the whole, and thereof quiet and peaceable possession and seisin to take, and afterwards the same to make and deliver unto the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley according to the true effect and meaning of these presents: and all and whatsoever the attorneys shall do as concerneth the premises the said Edward Mosley doth by these presents ratify and allow as fully and as absolutely as if he the said Edward Mosley were personally present. — In witness whereof the parties abovesaid interchangeably have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

On the death of the trustees first nominated none were elected to succeed them, nor was any new conveyance of the premises made; and in 1826, when the Charity Commissioners reported, the legal estate was found vested in John Rudd of Didsbury, the great grandson and heir of John Rudd who is mentioned in the above recited deed, he having survived his co-trustee Thomas Blomiley. The land thus bequeathed was let (in 1825) at an annual rent of £37, the master receiving also the benefit of other charities given for the support of a schoolmaster, viz. £4 from the charity of Sir Edward Mosley Knt., £1 from Chorlton's, and £1 from Hampson's charity. The appointment of master was at that time claimed by the Fielden family, principal landowners in the township; and the commissioners in the absence of all documentary evidence to the contrary, and with proof before them that the right of nominating a master had been repeatedly exercised by them without opposition, admitted their claim, remarking however at the same time that as the charity of Sir Edward Mosley is expressly limited to such schoolmaster as shall come in with the consent of the lord of the manor of Withington, his approval is necessary to entitle the

master so appointed to the benefit of that charity. Formerly, however, the uncontrolled appointment was, as it seems, vested in the lord of the manor. In 1699 William Garnett, on resigning the school, submitted one Henry Smith to the Bishop of Chester for a license to hold it,—the right of nomination having been made over to him (Garnett) for his life by Sir Edward Mosley then lately deceased, and confirmed to him “under the hand and seal of the worshipful Sir John Bland Knt. Bart., now lord of our manor;” and in 1722 a similar license was granted by the Bishop to Thomas Hudson on the nomination of Lady Ann Bland. In 1831 a new schoolroom was erected adjoining the old one, which was now converted into a residence for the master; and the entire premises were conveyed from Rudd, the representative of the surviving trustee mentioned in the deed, to certain trustees, one of whom was Mr. Fielden. In 1843 an infant-school was added, a schoolroom and a cottage for the teacher being erected at the same time; towards this object Joseph Birley of Didsbury Esq. contributed £150, and the National Society £50. In 1851 a new conveyance of the schools was made by Mr. Fielden to the Rev. W. J. Kidd, Hugh Birley, James Dorrington, and William Hobbs, Esqrs. Previous to the year 1831 the school-house had been used on Sundays for the purposes of a Sunday school on payment of fifty-two shillings per annum, but in that year an agreement was entered into between the Sunday school committee and other inhabitants on the one part, and Robert Fielden Esq., John Rudd and Joseph Rudd on the other part, which secures the use of the school premises exclusively on every Sunday for ever as a Sunday school for the instruction of the children within the chapelry of Didsbury who are brought up in the religious principles of the Established Church of England. By the said deed Mr. Fielden renounces also the right of appointing the master which is vested in the four trustees already enumerated and their successors for ever.

The Charities connected with the chapelry and township are as follows :—

1. CHARITY OF SIR EDWARD MOSLEY KNT.

Sir Edward Mosley Knt., by Will bearing date May 24, 1695, as appears from a recital contained in an indenture bearing date January 25, 1753, charged his manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, in the county of Lancaster, with the payment of the yearly sum of £4 to the churchwardens of the church of Didsbury, for the use of the poor of Withington and Heaton Norris; and also with the payment of the like sum of £4 yearly to a schoolmaster of Didsbury, until some lands of the like value were settled upon them for ever.

The indenture from which the above abstract is taken, and which was produced before the commissioners in 1826 by Robert Fielden Esq., was made between William Fenwick Esq., a mortgagee in fee of the premises therein mentioned of the first part, Sir John Bland Bart. of the second part, and Richard Broome and William Broome of the third part; whereby, after reciting the above-mentioned devises, and that the said Sir John Bland was desirous of vesting the premises therein after-mentioned in the said parties of the third part, and their heirs, in trust, to indemnify the said manors from the payment of the said two yearly sums; the said William Fenwick, at the request of the said Sir John Bland, granted to the said Richard and William Broome and their heirs a messuage or tenement and farm, with the lands and grounds thereto belonging, in the parish of Manchester, then or late in the occupation of John Shuttleworth, at the yearly rent of £14, to the intent that they should stand seised thereof as trustees for the indemnification of the said manors against the said yearly sums, provided that until default should be made in the payment of the said yearly sums, the said parties of the third part should permit the said Sir John Bland and his heirs to receive the rents and profits of the said premises.

Whether this deed was ever revoked or not does not appear, but the two annual sums of £4 are now paid by Robert Fielden Esq. in respect of such parts of his estate as were formerly parcel of the manor of Withington. One of these sums is paid by Mr. Fielden

to the schoolmaster of Didsbury school as already mentioned. The other sum of £4 is paid to the churchwardens of Didsbury, for the time being, by whom it is distributed amongst poor persons not receiving relief in the five following townships, every year in rotation, viz., in Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, Heaton Norris and Chorlton-with-Hardy, all of which townships are within the manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, the three first-mentioned being in the chapelry of Didsbury. There are four other townships in the manor of Withington, viz., Moss-side, Rusholme, Denton-with-Haughton and Levenshulme, and it does not appear upon what principle, as the distribution is extended beyond the townships of Withington and Heaton Norris, the other townships within the manor of Withington are excluded. — [*Commissioners' Report*, vol. xvi. pp. 193, 194.]

2. CHORLTON'S CHARITY.

Thomas Chorlton, by Will bearing date May 27, 1728, charged all his messuages, lands and premises whercin he dwelt at Grundy Hill with the payment of the clear yearly sum of £5, to commence from the death of the survivor of his wife, or sister Mary, to the following uses, viz., £4, part thereof to the chapelwardens of Didsbury for the time being for ever, to be by them laid out in bread to be given weekly in Didsbury chapel on Sunday to the most poor and indigent people living in and belonging to the townships of Heaton Norris, Didsbury, Withington and Burnage, such as should come frequently to hear divine service at the said chapel; and the sum of twenty shillings, residue of the said sum of £5, to the schoolmaster for the time being, of the school-house at Barlow Moor End. Mr. John Thorniley, as the proprietor of an estate called Grundy Hill, in the township of Heaton Norris, pays £4 per annum to the chapelwardens, which sum, with the produce of Boardman's charity hereafter mentioned, is by them laid out in bread, a portion of which is distributed on every Sunday to such poor persons of the four townships mentioned in the will of the testator as attend divine service at Didsbury chapel.

The remaining £1 is paid to the schoolmaster of Didsbury school as already mentioned. — [*Ib.* p. 194.]

3. BOARDMAN'S CHARITY.

Sergeant Boardman, by will bearing date March 4, 1768, gave to Edward Place, James Greatrix and his wife Dorothy Boardman £50 on trust, that they should invest the same in the purchase of a yearly rent-charge or of bank-stock, and thereupon settle the said rent-charge or the said stock to the use of the minister and chapelwardens of the ancient chapel of Didsbury in the parish of Manchester, called Didsbury church, for the time being; the annual produce thereof to be by them laid out and given in bread in Didsbury chapel on every Sunday, to such of the most poor and indigent people living in and belonging to the several townships of Didsbury, Withington, Heaton Norris and Burnage, such as should come frequently to hear divine service at Didsbury chapel, as they in their discretion should think fit.¹

The above sum was laid out in the purchase of £102 11s. 2d. stock, in the three per cent consols, now standing in the name of the Rev. John Newton. The dividends, amounting to £3 1s. 6d. per annum, are received by Messrs. Jones and Loyd, bankers of Manchester, by whom they are paid to the chapelwardens, and bestowed in the manner already stated in the account of the preceding charity. — [*Ib.* pp. 194, 195.]

4. BLAND AND LINNEY'S CHARITY.

By Indentures of Lease and Release, bearing date September 28 and 29, 1775, between William Broome the elder of the one

¹ The testator's intentions were all but frustrated by the too great precipitancy of the acting executor Mr. Edward Place, who paid over to the residuary legatee the residue of the testator's effects without having first discharged this legacy. On being applied to, Mr. Place justified its continued non-payment by a reference to the statute of Mortmain (9 George II. cap. 36.) A case was drawn up and submitted to Mr. Arderne, who gave his opinion in favour of the poor. After much delay and the obtaining of a second legal opinion which confirmed the first, the bequest was at length paid.

part, and the Rev. William Twyford clerk, James Goolden, Richard Watson and four others of the other part, — It is witnessed, that in consideration of £100 (being the sum given by Dame Ann Bland, to be placed at interest or invested in the purchase of land, the yearly produce thereof to be applied for the benefit of poor housekeepers within the townships of Withington, Didsbury, Chorlton, Burnage and Heaton Norris), and also of the sum of £100 (being a legacy bequeathed by the will of Thomas Linney, to be invested in parliamentary funds or other securities, and the produce thereof paid from time to time amongst such poor of the parish of Didsbury as were thereafter particularly described), the said William Broome granted to the said William Twyford and others of the second part their heirs and assigns, a close of meadow land situate in Didsbury, called Twyford's Whartha, containing by estimation two acres of seven yards to the perch, bounded as therein described, upon trust, that they should receive the clear rents and profits thereof, and apply the same as follows, viz., one moiety thereof amongst such poor housekeepers belonging to or residing within the said several townships alternately as should not be under the common relief of alms, and who by sickness or any other indisposition, or accident, or age, or a numerous family, should be deemed by the said trustees most proper objects to receive the same, according to the intent of the said Dame Ann Bland; and the other moiety to the said William Twyford clerk, and the said James Goulden and William Watson, minister and churchwardens of the chapel of Didsbury, and their successors, upon trust, to be by them applied yearly amongst such poor of Didsbury aforesaid, as should not be under the common relief of alms, and who by sickness, accident, age, or a numerous family, should be deemed by the said minister and churchwardens and their successors to be the most proper objects to receive the same, according to the will of the said Thomas Linney, with a power to the survivors of appointing new trustees when their number should be reduced to three.

The trustees mentioned in the above abstracted deed, of whom

Richard Watson was the survivor, being all dead, the churchwardens have had the management of the charity. The close containing about two acres, customary measure, is in the occupation of Joseph Reddish as yearly tenant at the rent of £13, which is considered to be its fair value.

The rent is paid to the churchwardens, who dispose of the same usually in the purchase of clothing or blankets, which they distribute in the course of the winter amongst poor householders not receiving parochial relief. The distribution of one moiety is confined to the township of Didsbury; the other moiety is disposed of in the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, Chorlton and Heaton Norris, every year in rotation. — [*Ib.* p. 195.]

5. HAMPSON'S CHARITY.

By Indenture bearing date August 17, 1811, between Mary Broome, widow of William Broome the surviving executor of William Broome, who was the surviving executor of Edward Hampson deceased of the one part and Robert Fielden Esq. of the other part, reciting that Edward Hampson, by will dated February 24, 1756, directed his executors to keep out at interest the sum of £400, and to pay the interest thereof to his wife during her widowhood, but in case she should marry, to pay to her the yearly sum of £5 only, and the surplus to certain legatees therein named; and that after the decease of his said wife he thereby gave certain legacies, to be paid out of the said sum of £400, and the residue thereof to his executors, to be applied to the several uses mentioned in a paper to his will annexed; and further reciting that by the paper annexed to the said will, and dated the same day, the said testator directed that his executors should dispose of the residue of the said sum of £400, either in the purchase of lands or otherwise, as to them should seem meet, the income thereof to be applied as follows: to wit—to the preaching minister at Didsbury £1; to the schoolmaster of Didsbury £1; to the singers of Didsbury Chapel £1; and the remainder to such further uses as his said executors should think fit; and further

reciting that the said residue amounted to £100 and no more, and that the said sum of £100 had come to the hands of the said Mary Broome, and that she was desirous to pay that sum for the uses aforesaid to the said Robert Fielden, who had agreed to take the same; the said Robert Fielden, in consideration of the said sum of £100 paid to him by the said Mary Broome, covenanted for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, to dispose of the said sum according to the trusts declared in the will of the said Edward Hampson, and also to indemnify the said Mary Broome from the payment of the said sum or the interest thereof.

The deed, of which the above is an abstract, is in the possession of Robert Fielden Esq., in whose hands the sum of £100 still remains. But as this deed is the only security given for the money, we (the commissioners) suggested to him the propriety of at least giving a copy thereof to the officers of the township, with an acknowledgment that the original was in his custody.

For the sum of £100 Mr. Fielden has hitherto paid interest at the rate of five per cent. He stated however that it was his intention to place the money out as soon as an opportunity should occur.

The three several yearly sums of £1 are paid as directed by the testator; and Mr. Fielden states that he has distributed £2 annually at Christmas with other money from his own private funds, principally in clothing, amongst poor persons within the chapelry of Didsbury.

It seems desirable that an account should be kept of the distribution to the poor, distinct from the money disposed of by Mr. Fielden from his private funds. — [*Ib.* p. 196.]

6. FIELDEN'S CHARITY.

By Indenture bearing date March 25, 1835, Sarah Fielden of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster, relict and widow of Robert Fielden late of the same place Esquire, deceased, assigned unto Oswald Fielden, his executors, administrators and assigns the sum of one hundred pounds on trust, that the said Oswald Fielden, his

executors &c. shall upon the first Monday in December every year pay and apply the interest, dividends and annual produce thereof in furnishing and providing six such poor persons, being inhabitants of the village of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster, as the clergyman of the church thereof shall appoint, with such quantities of coals as he may order and direct.

The above-named amount is lent on mortgage to the trustees of the Manchester and Wilmslow turnpike road, and the interest applied according to the directions given in the deed.

TOWNSHIP OF WITHINGTON.

This township, situated within the chapelry of Didsbury, lies three miles and a half south of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Moss-side, on the south by Didsbury, on the east by Rusholme and Burnage, and on the west by Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

It derives its name most probably from one of its ancient characteristic features — the marshy nature of its soil — being, as its name denotes, the town or hamlet of the *withe* or willow, which from the peculiarity of soil adverted to flourished there in great abundance. Kemble however, a great authority in such matters, derives it from the Saxon patronymic *Widingas*.

Withington possessed the style and title of a manor and had its corresponding privileges; the limits of the manor greatly exceeded those of the township, embracing the hamlets of Withington, Didsbury, Burnage, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Moss-side, Rusholme, Denton, Haughton and Levenshulme. Its orthography is not less unsettled than is that of Didsbury, appearing in early records as Withton, Witheton, Witinton, Withintone, Whittinton, Whythynton, Wethington, Withrington, &c.

In the reign of Edward I. the Abbot of Cokersand was cited to appear before the King to show by what authority he claimed waifs, ingfangenthef (the judging of a thief arraigned within the lord's fee), and the assize of bread and ale in Withington and Chorlton, and also to exhibit the ground of the exemption he now claimed for himself and his monks from fines and amercements appertaining to the Crown, and for which exemption no license was known to exist. His plea was not admitted.¹

¹ Abbas de Cokersaund sum' fuit ad respondend. d'no Regi quo waranto clam' h're weyf infangenthef & emendas assie panis & c'vis fracte in . . . Cherlton, Wythington &c. et quo warranto clam' esse quietus de com'ibus finibus & amerciamentis com' & de sectis comitatuū & wapentach' pro se & hom'ibus suis de villis predictis que ad coronam & dignitatem d'ni Regis p'tinent sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius d'ni Regis & p'genitor' suor' Regum Angl. — *Placita de Quo Warranto Rolls*, p. 379.

From the Inquisition p. m. of Robert Grelle in the 10 Edward I. (1281) we learn that the said Robert died seised of Withrington township and also of Manchester and its church. During his lifetime he granted to Matthew de Hathersage, in consideration of the service of one knight's fee, the manor of Withrington, wholly or in part held by himself from Ferrars, Earl of Derby, the latter being tenant in chief of the King.¹ The names of two other proprietors at this early period have reached us, namely, Adam de Iseni, who held by military service five carucates of land in Withrington, which he gave to Gilbert, son of Reinfridus, and secondly, the heir of Robert, son of Gilmuth, who in this reign held one carucate of land for which he paid forty pence.²

Early in the fourteenth century the family of Norris, holding lands in the adjacent township of Heaton Norris, were also landed proprietors in Withrington. William le Norreis in 1308 granted to his brother Alexander his lands &c. in Withrington.³ About this time certain estates in the township were in the possession of the Barlows of Barlow Hall in Chorlton. Henry, son of Alexander de Barlow, gave in 1311 to William de Honford lands &c. in the town of Withinton, which being inherited by his successors were transmitted by Henry de Honford to his son Richard. To this latter deed of conveyance there is no date affixed, but it is attested by Geoffrey de Chetham, at that time seneschal of Manchester, Hugh de Phitun, Robert de Hulton, Richard de Trafford, and Robert de Redish.⁴ These lands were probably either con-

¹ Mathus de Hav'seg' tenet unū feodū milit' in Wythinton de feodo Thom' le Gretley, & ip'e de feodo com' de Ferrar' & ip'e in capite de d'no Rege. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Adam de Iseni tenet v caruc' terre in Wythington p' servic' militare quas dedit Gilb'to fil' Reinfridi. Heres Rob'ti filii Gilmuth' ten' unā caruc' terre in Wytington & reddit p' annū xl den. — *Testa de Nevill*.

³ Ego W's le Norreis dedi Alex'o fr'i meo ten'ta mea in Withinton. Dat. ap^d Denton 2 Edw. II. (1308). — *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 149.

⁴ Univ'sis &c. Henr' f. Alex' de Barlow conc' W'o de Honford jus &c. in villa de Withinton. Test' Henr' de Trafford mil'; Galfr' de Chaderton; Ric' de Moston; Rog' de Barlow &c. Dat. ap^d Manchest' 5 Edw. II. (1311). *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 165.

Ego Henr' de Honford dedi Ric'o fil' meo ter' in vil' de Withinton. Test'

veyed in trust or were but a part of the Barlow estate in the township, for by a deed executed 3rd December, 6 Edward IV. (1466), Nicholas Barlow conveys to Alexander Barlow his son all his lands &c. in Withington and elsewhere in Lancashire which lately appertained to his father John de Barlow;¹ and a century and a half later we have evidence of the continued interest of this family in the township in the Inquisition p. m. of Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow Hall 18 James I. (1620.)

In 1364-5 Roger de Mamcester and Geoffrey de Bexwyck, chaplains of Manchester, convey to Thurstan de Holand certain messuages in Wythington.²

Withington, though in itself a manor, was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester, and was required to contribute towards the maintenance of the lord's bailiff and his four under-bailiffs in their general oversight of the manor.

From the extent and survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in 1322, it appears that in the lord's wood at Heton [Norres] there are seventy acres of pasture in common for the tenants of Heton and Withington and their members, with six weeks' time of pannage.

The lord of Withington was by ancient tenure bound to assist the lord of Manchester in the administration of justice in his several manor-courts, which from their distance apart rendered the presence of the chief lord in person at times impossible. This obligation as it affects Withington is recited as early as the reign of Henry III., and is then declared as "ancient service."³

Towards the close of the reign of Henry III. the Lancashire estates of the Hathersages passed by descent to the Longfords of Longford, county of Derby, on the marriage of Sir Nigel de Long-

Galfr' de Chetham t'ne sen^{lo} de Mancestr; D'no Hug' de Phitun; Rob' de Hulton; Ric' de Trafford; Rob. de Redish. — *Harl. MSS.* 2112 fo. 165.

¹ Ego Nicholl' Barlow dedi Alex'o Barlow f. meo o'ia ten' ter' &c. q' nuper fuer' Jō de Barlow p'ris mei in Withington seu alibi in co' Lane. Dat. 3 Dec. 6 Edw. IV. (1466). — *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 174.

² *Foundations in Manchester*, vol. iv. p. 109.

³ Math's fil' Will'i & Rog'us fil' Will'i tenēt feodū uni' milit' de Rob'to Gredle in Wythinton de antiquitate & debent invenire j'udiciē d'no Regi. — *Testa de Nevill*.

ford with Cecilia, daughter and coheiress of Matthew de Hathersage. The Longfords, as did their predecessors the Hathersages, continued to hold their lands as tenants of the Wests, Lords De la Warre, themselves tenants in capite. An Inquisition p. m., taken in the 22 Edward IV. (1482) on the death of Richard West, Lord De la Warre, finds the said Richard seised at the time of his death in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Manchester, with the hamlets of Withington, Denton, Openshagh, Cleyton, Ard-wike, Blakeley and Gorton. The issue of this marriage with the coheiress of the Hathersages was two sons, Oliver and William — the former of whom married, according to Dodsworth, Agnes, the daughter of Ralph de Horbury (marriage covenant dated 44 Henry III.), and dying in the 12 Edward I., as appears from his Inquisition p. m. of that date, was succeeded by his son John, then in his minority. William de Longford, the younger brother of Oliver, was prior of the monastery of Kenilworth.

In an enumeration of the Duke of Lancaster's tenants in 1311 it is declared that Nicholas de Longford holds of the lord of Manchester one knight's fee in Withington, the same which Matthew de Hathersage once possessed.

Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., whose Inquisition p. m. is dated 37 Edward III. (1373), married Alice, daughter and coheiress of Sir Roger Deyncourt Knt. At his death he was found seised of the manor of Withington, which he held from Lord De la Warre.

Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., grandson of the preceding, was high sheriff of Lancashire in the 1 Henry V. (1413.) He accompanied the King in his invasion of France, and fought by his side at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.¹ He died in the following year. The name of his wife as it appears in the annexed pedigree, and is confirmed in a descent of the family given by Dodsworth (vol. lxxxii. fol. 16), was Joan Warren, whereas in the inquisition she is styled Alice, and Dodsworth himself elsewhere (vol. lxxxvii. fo. 92) calls her by the latter name, — a statement reconcileable with the supposition that Sir Nicholas was twice married. On the 24th March 4 Henry V. (1416) Sir John de Stanley Knt. discovers through his own offi-

¹ *Harl. MS.* 72.

cials, on the King's behalf, that Sir Nicholas de Longford, then recently deceased, held from the King in capite as of the duchy of Lancaster the manor of Withington, whereof he was seised on the day of his death, which right of the King in the manor aforesaid had hitherto been concealed. The King, in recompense of the labour and trouble of the said Sir John in that behalf, committed to him, by writ of mainprise of Sir Henry le Norreys and Thomas de Bradshaw of Haigh, the custody of the aforesaid manor, except lands and rents to the yearly value of twenty marks which Alice, late wife of the above named Nicholas, has for the term of her life out of the said manor by grant from Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., father of the aforesaid Nicholas, and excepting also the dower of the said Alice, and also lands and rents to the annual value of twenty marks which Ralph, son and heir of the aforesaid Nicholas the younger and Margaret his wife have in the said manor for the term of their lives, — the said Sir John Stanley to hold the same until the heir reaches his full age, rendering therefor to the King an annual tribute of thirty-five marks.¹

Sir Ralph Longford Knt., son and heir of Sir Nicholas Longford the younger, died, as appears from his Inquisition p. m., in the 10 Henry VI. (1431); he was seised at his death of the manor of Withington, which he held of Reginald West, Lord De la Warre. In the pedigree annexed, as also in that given by Dodsworth (vol. lxxxii. fol. 16), Sir Ralph Longford is represented as marrying Margaret Melton, whilst elsewhere, in his manuscript extracts from the Archbishops' Registers at York (Dodsworth, vol. xxviii.

¹ Joh'es de Stanley mil' cus'tibus suis p'priis fecit inveniri pro Rege q'd Nich'us de Longford ch'r def^{us} ten' de Rege in cap' ut de Duc' suo Lanc' maner' de Wythington die quo ob' q'd jus D'ni Regis in maner' p'd'e'o huc usq. fuit concealatum. Rex in recompensacōem expensar' & assidui laboris p'd'e'i Joh'is in hac p'te commisit eid' Joh'i p' manucap' Henr. le Norreys ch'r & Tho. de Bradschagh de Haghe, custod' maner' p'd'e'i cū p'tin' except' 20 m'catis t'ræ & red' p' an. q's Alicia que fuit ux' p'd'e'i Nich'i hēt ad term' vite in eod' maner' ex concess' Nich'i de L. mil' p'ris p'd'e'i Nich'i & except' dote ejusd' Alio' & except' 20 m'catis t're & red' p' an. q's Rad'us f. & h. p'd'e'i Nich'i filii & Margareta uxor ejus tenent ad vitam eor'd' in p'd'e'o maner' usq' ad plen' æt. p'd'e'i hæ'd', redd' inde nob' 35 m'cas p' an. Dat. 24 M'tii 4 H. 5. — *Dodsworth*, vol. lxxxvii, fo. 92.

fol. 242), it is said "*Nichūs* Langford miles duxit in uxēm Margaretam Melton in eccliā de Aston Oct. 1, 1472."

Sir Ralph Longford was followed by a son bearing the same name, who died, 1 February 5 Henry VIII. (1513) seized of the manors of Withington and The Hough, and also of lands in Didsbury, having married Isabel, daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers Knt. His son Nicholas married Margery, daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford Knt., and dying in his father's lifetime left a son Ralph, who succeeded to the estates on the death of his grandfather in 1513, being then four years of age. Ralph Longford Esq. married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert Knt., and at his death left his estates to his son Nicholas, the last heir male of the family, who died without issue in the year 1610. His sisters and coheirresses, Elizabeth and Matilda, married — the one Humphrey Dethick of Newhall Esq., and the other first Sir George Vernon of Haddon, county of Derby, Knt., and secondly, Francis Hastings Esq.

The manor of Withington, which, notwithstanding Dodsworth's assertion to the contrary, the Longfords held by subinfeudation of the Grelles and Wests, the successive lords in capite, and not directly from the King, remained in the family until the close of the sixteenth century, when it passed by purchase to Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt.

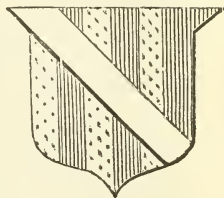
Old Hall, or The Hough, situated about the centre of the township at the eastern extremity of Hough End Clough, was a seat of the Longfords, being the ancient manor-house. The family, it is conjectured, resided chiefly on their other estates, but their occasional residence here is inferred from a casual remark of Hollingworth, when speaking of "Thomas Langford the famous historian, a Dominican friar, of Chelmsford in Essex," he describes him as "supposed to be one of the Langfords of The Hough."¹ The house, which is of brick, has been rebuilt, and is now converted into a farm-house; it was anciently surrounded by a moat which in part remains, the only evidence of its former pretensions, the buildings themselves being entirely modern.

¹ Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, p. 35.

Longford

of Longford co. Derby, and of The Hough co. Lanc.

(From *Visitation of Derbyshire* by William Flower, Norroy, and Robert Glover, Portcullis, 1569;
with some additions by Ralph Brooke, &c.—*Hart. MS. 806, fol. 10.*)



Nigel de Longford of Longford,=
co. Derby.

Nicholas de Longford=

Nigel de Longford=

Nigel de Longford=Cecilia, dau. and coh. of Matthew
de Hathersage.

Sir Oliver de Longford=

William, Prior of
Kenilworth.

Sir John de Longford=Joan

Sir Nicholas de Longford=Alice, sister of Edward Butler.

Elizabeth, marr. Thomas,
son of Sir Thomas Fol-
jamb Knt.

Sir Nicholas de Longford=Alice, dau. and coh. of Roger Deyncourt.

Sir Nicholas de Longford=Margaret, dau. of Sir Edmund Appleby, and heir to her mother
Agnes, sister and heir to Sir John Solney.

Sir Nicholas de Longford=Joan, dau. of Warren.

Henry.

Ralph.

Alured, Par-
son of Long-
ford.

Sir Ralph Longford=Margaret, dau. of Melton.

Joane, wife of John, son and heir
of Sir John Stanley Knt.

Sir Ralph Longford=Isabel, dau. of
Sir Henry
[Thomas]
Ferrers.

Edmund.
Richard.
Joane.

Margaret=Humphrey
Bradburne
Esq.

Sir Nicholas L.=Margery
.....
ob. s. p.

Nicholas Longford,=Margery, dau. of Sir
ob. vit. pat. Edmund Trafford
of Trafford Knt.

Elizabeth,
wife of Sir
Edmund
Trafford.

Henry.
Thomas.

John.
William.

Margaret, 2^d wife of
Sir John Mark-
ham of Coatham,
co. Notts, Knt.

Sir Ralph Longford=Dorothy, dau. of Sir Anthony
Fitzherbert Knt.

Elizabeth,=Humphrey Dethie
of Newhall Esq.

Margery.

Nicholas Longford,=Elizabeth, dau. of
living in 1567. Ralph Okeover
of Okeover, co.
Derby, Esq.

Maud, wife of (1) Sir
George Vernon of
Haddon, co. Derby,
Knt., and (2) Fran-
cis Hastings Esq.
brother of the Earl
of Huntingdon.

Katharine, dau. and heiress,
wife of Alexander Reddish
of Reddish Esq.

Not less ancient than the Hathersages and Longfords is the family of Withington, which takes its name from this township.

Of the existence in early times of a family thus designated we are assured on the testimony of ancient records connected with the county. Thomas de Grelle, in an undated deed, grants to Richard de Wythinton and his heirs seven acres of land in Swinton, within the following limits, beginning where Tordalesik falls into Caldebok, and so ascending Caldebok as far as the well dug in the direction of Preestesplatteford, and so following to another well, and so from that other well across to the ditch of Roger clerk of Maunton, except three roods at the entrance and outlet, and so descending to the hay of Richard the Rhymer, and so following the said hay into Caldebok.¹

By a deed executed on the day of St. Philip and St. James 1284, Alice de Wythyngton, late wife of Richard de Wythyngton, releases to the Abbot of Stanlawe, amongst other lands her right and title to eight acres called Wythynton-heye beyond the boundary of Wythynton.² And we have additional evidence of the fact in an undated quit-claim from John de Wythynton of certain lands in Westwood.³

Thomas de Wythington held lands of Robert de Grelle in the reign of Edward I., by military service, the tenure even then declared to be of ancient date.⁴

The name of William son of Wulfrith de Withinton also occurs in an undated deed of the Lightbowne family (*Harl. MSS.* 2,112, fo. 165) as contesting with Adam brother of Gospatric de Chorlton the claim of the latter to lands in the township.

With such scanty memorials it is not easy to connect the several names thus given; but they serve nevertheless to attest the fact that such a family existed in the township at a very early period, where even the name still lingers.

Holt Hall or The Holte in Withington was anciently a seat of

¹ *Coucher Book of Whalley*, pp. 910, 911. ² *Ib.* pp. 911, 912. ³ *Ib.* p. 912.

⁴ Thomas de Wythington tenet feod' di' milit' de eod' Rob'to [Grelle] de antiquitate. — *Testa de Nevill*.

the Bamford family, whose chief estate was at Bamford near Middleton, in the same county. Holt Wood, in the north-west corner of the township, near to the Independent College, seems to have been a portion of the original demesne. At what time and under what circumstances they first obtained a settlement in the township there is now no evidence to show. Richard de Bamford held lands in Withington, Barton, Middleton, Spotland, Bury, &c., in the 25 Henry VI. (1446); shortly after which date they married into the influential local family of Longford. An indenture made the 16th November in the 18 Edward IV. (1478) between Sir Nicholas Longford Knt. and Bartin Bamford gent. witnesses “y^t hit is coveñtnd and agrede by twene the seid pties that John soñ and heire of the seid Bartyne shall by the g^oce of God be fore the fest of Seynt Andrewe the Appostell next comyng wedd and take to wyff Marg^oie Longforth suster unto the seid S^r Nicholl; and the seid Marg^oie shall by the g^oce of God wedde and take to husbond the seid John before the seid fest: And the seid Bartyne g^ounteth by this psentes that he shall make or cause to be made withyn xl daies after the seid mariage unto the seid John and Marg^oie a sure sufficient and lawfull astate of landes and teñtes to the yerly value of xl^s of lawfull money of England ov^r all charges and rep^oses, in Gorton, called the xl acres to have and to hold unto the seid John and Marg^oie and to the heires by twene theym too lawfully begotan, the remaynder y^o of to the righte heires of the seid John the son; and also the same Bartyne g^ounteth by y^{se} psentes y^t all oder his landes and teñtes that he hath or any oder man to his use hath shall immediately after his decesse remayne and come unto the seid John the son and his heires in fe symple or fe taill; and also the seid Bartyne g^ounteth by y^{is} psentes y^t he shall leeff unto the seid John his son in contyne and immediately after his decesse landes and teñtes to the yerly valewe of viij^{li} and all charges the which shall come to the seid John and to his heires without the xl^s of tylebrod be fore g^ounted: Also the same Bartyne g^ounteth v^{li} duryng his liffe; he shall ffynd the seid John his son and Marg^oie mete and drynk sufficient, and a cham-

ber conveyent for his seid son and Marg^{ie} his wiffe to rest yn and to be logged yn; ffor the which mariage and coveñntes to be kepte on the pte of the seid Bartyn the seid S^r Nicholl g^{unteth} to pay unto the seid Bartyn xx markes in man^{er} and forme as ffoloweth, that is to say, the day of mariage vj^{li} xij^s iiij^d and v markes at the fest of seynt John Baptist next comyng, and v markes at the fest of seynt Martyn in wynt^{er} then next ffolowyng, and for the payment of this x markes at the seid fest of seynt John and seynt Martyn the seid S^r Nicholl Longforth, Rauffe Longforth his broder and Eliece of Prestwich have bounden theym in ij oblig^{is} as hit appereth by the same; and for all the soleñities a bove seid to be kepte and pformed on the pte of the seid Bartyne, the same Bartyne, John Platte and Wiff Birche have bounden theym unto the seid S^r Nich. in an oblig^{is} of clⁱ like as the same oblig^{is} specifieth. It witnesse of all the seid soleñities as well the seid S^r Nicholl Longforthe Knyghte as the seid Bartyne be fore Thomas flyton and and oder entchaungeable have set herunto y^r seales the day and yere a bove seid."

There is also another marriage-covenant dated 8th May 10 Henry VIII. (1518) between George Bamford of the Holte in the county of Lancaster gent. and Richard Scolfeld of Stakehill in the same county gent., which witnesses the intended marriage of John Bamford son and heir of the said George, and Margaret Scolfeld daughter of the said Richard; the marriage to take place "before the ffeste of seynt Marten in wynt^{er} next ensuing." The wife's jointure is specified, and consisted of a certain messuage with its appurtenances in Rusholme, then in the occupation of Richard Hunt; a certain close called Wode hedde, with the woods thereunto belonging, situated in Holt; a certain close called Coltheys in Holt aforesaid; a meadow called Gosclache meadow in Rusholme; and half an acre of land in Rusholme meadow. A covenant of the same date intimates also the approaching marriage of Robert Scolfeld, son and heir of the above-named Richard, with Jenet Bamford, daughter of the said George Bamford.

John Bamford Esq., who died August 20, 1557, was the last

heir male who held the Withington estates of his family. He died leaving an only daughter his heiress, afterwards the wife of George Birch of Birch gent., to whom at his death they were bequeathed. His inquisition post mortem was taken at Wigan on Thursday the second of July 4 Elizabeth (1561), before Ralph Worsley Esq. eschaetor, under the oath of John Bradshaw Esq., William Radcliffe gent., Richard Hunt gent., Thomas Assheton gent., George Latham gent., Adam Pilkington gent., Roger Brownelawe gent., John Taylor gent., Alexander Wardle gent., Ralph Cudworth gent., Richard Ramsbotham gent., Lawrence Rostherne gent., and Thomas Wood gent. It commences by reciting the marriage-settlement of John Bamford and Margaret Scolfeld, dated the 10 Henry VIII. It proceeds to state that the said John Bamford was seised the day of his death in his demesne as of fee, of and in one capital messuage called Holt Hall, fifteen acres of land, twelve acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, six acres of wood, twenty-four acres of gorse-land and heath-land, with their appurtenances, situated in Rusholme within Withington, in the county of Lancaster; one messuage, twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture and twenty acres of moor-land, with their appurtenances, in Spotland, in the county aforesaid; one messuage, sixteen acres of land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, with their appurtenances, called Bamford, in Middleton in the county aforesaid; and twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, called the Forty Acres, in Gorton, within Manchester, in the county aforesaid. Then follow the particulars of the dower of Anne, wife of Thomas Birch, and late wife of the above-named John Bamford. The jurors declare on oath that the aforesaid capital messuage called Holte Hall, and the other premises in Rusholme and Holt within Withington, are held, and at the time of the death of the aforesaid John Bamford were held, of and from Nicholas Longford Esq. as of his manor of Hough, in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of twelvecence; and that the said messuage, lands and tenements in Rusholme and Holt, granted as aforesaid to the

use of the said Margaret, are worth forty shillings per annum; and that the said lands &c. in Withington, granted to the said Thomas Birch and Anne his wife, are worth twenty shillings per annum; and that the remainder of the lands, tenements, &c., in Rusholme, Holt, and Withington are worth forty shillings. They say, moreover, on oath that the aforesaid messuages &c. in Spotland at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Robert Holte Esq. lately deceased and Robert Savell Esq. by military service, namely, by the hundredth part of a knight's fee; and that the same premises in Spotland are now held from Charles Holte Esq., son and heir of the aforesaid Robert Holte, and are at present in the custody of the queen by reason of the minority of the said Charles Holte, and that they are worth twenty-three shillings and fourpence per annum. They also say that the aforesaid messuages, lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, in Middleton, called Bamford, are held and at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Richard Assheton Esq. in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of [blank in the inquisition], and are worth twenty shillings per annum. They say that the said lands, tenements &c., with their appurtenances, called the Forty Acres, situated in Gorton in the aforesaid county, are held and at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Sir John Guildford Knt. and Thomas Bishop Esq., executors of Sir Thomas West, late Lord De la Warre, as of his manor of Manchester, in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of twelvecence, and are worth forty shillings per annum. And they further say on oath that the said John Bamford named in this writ died on the twentieth day of August, in the fifth and sixth year of the reign of Philip and Mary, and that Anne Bamford is his daughter and next heir, and that at the date of the taking of this inquisition she was of the age of five years and one month. The jurors also say on oath that the said John Bamford had no other manors, messuages, lands or tenements in the said county of Lancaster on the day of his death other than as is aforesaid.

On the death of John Bamford Esq., the party named in the above inquisition, dissensions arose touching the lawful inheritance of his lands. These, for the most part, seem to have devolved upon his only child and heiress Anne, but her right was questioned by a male heir collaterally descended, who founded his claim upon an alleged deed of entail still in force.

In the 6 Elizabeth (1563) Thomas Bamforthe claiming as cousin and heir to John Bamforthe and as a lineal descendant of Adam Bamforthe, who was seised in fee in the reign of Henry I., entered an action at Lancaster against Thomas Birche, Robert Skofeld, Dennis Key, William Bamforthe and Anne Bamforthe, in relation to certain lands, tenements and hereditaments in Bury, Middleton, Withington, &c.; and this was but the continuation of proceedings instituted in the same Court three years earlier. Their efforts were however, as it seems, unattended with success, except in so far as Bamford Hall and the lands thereunto annexed were concerned, in which the deed of entail limiting the succession to heirs male had remained unbroken. By an indenture tripartite, dated the 25th of June 16 Elizabeth (1573), between John Bamford of Powlesworth in the county of Warwick yeoman on the first part, George Birch of Birch in the county of Lancaster gent. and Anne his wife, daughter and sole heir of John Bamford late of The Holte in the said county deceased, on the second part, and John Woodroff of Staple Inn in the county of Middlesex gent. and Thomas Antrobus of Lincoln's Inn in the same county gent. on the third part, It is witnessed that "whereas there hath bene longe stryff, suyte and debate betwene the said John Bamford and his auncestors synce the death of the said John Bamford, of, for and concerninge certaine landes, tenementes and heredytamentes, with their appurtenances, in Myddleton, Spotland, Rachedale, Gorton and Withington, in the said countie of Lancaster, w^{ch} the said Anne claymed as heire unto the said John Bamford deceased; and the said John Bamford and his auncestors claymed the same as heire male by force of an entayle, ffor the quyetinge of w^{ch} controversies and suytes the said parties have by medyaçõn of their

frendes agreed in manner and fourme followinge: that is to say, that the said John Bamford shall have for all his right, tytle, clayme, interest and demaund of and in the premises a certaine somme of money to him to be paid by the said George and Anne, and that the said John in consideraçon thereof is content and agreed to assure all his right, clayme and interest in the premises unto the said George Byrche and Anne his wife, and to the heires of the same Anne, the said John undertaking before the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle next ensuing to pass and knowledge both fyne and recovery and such other assurance as shalbe, as before is said, advised by the learned counsel of the said George Byrch," &c.

The family continued in the male line at Bamford near Middleton until the death of George Bamford Esq., who died in 1757, leaving three daughters his coheiresses; these all dying without issue, the estate was devised by Anne the eldest daughter in 1779 to William Bamford of Tarlton Bridge, a remote kinsman, afterwards sheriff of Lancaster, who married in 1786 Anna, daughter of Thomas Blackburne of Hale Esq., who assumed the name of Bamford in 1806, and was grandfather of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh of Gwyrch Castle, in the county of Denbigh, Esq., the owner of several estates in Didsbury township.¹

The name Holt signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a grove of timber trees. Matilda del Holt, who is named as a land-owner in Rusholme in a deed dated 29 Edward I. (1301),² and Thomas del Holtes, who in 1349 appears as a witness to a deed of conveyance relating to the Slade Hall estate, in the township of Rusholme, may probably have been members of a family deriving its name from this place.

The family of Entwisle also was anciently connected with either the township or manor of Withington. Edmund Entwissell, as appears from an inquisition p. m. dated 36 Henry VIII. (1544), died seised of Entwissell manor in Bolton parish, and also of lands

¹ Raines's *Not. Cestr.* vol. ii. part i. p. 29 (Chetham Series).

² *Birch Papers*, penes Sir John W. H. Anson Bart.

&c. in Withington. In 1576, Edward Tildesley impleads Alexander Entwissell in the Duchy Court at Lancaster in relation to certain lands &c. in Entwissell manor, Withington, &c.

The name of Trafford occurs in the annals of the township at a period too early to be now determined. By a deed undated, but executed before the year 1224, Matthew de Hathersage grants to Richard de Trafford and his heirs in return for homage and service all the land which Adam, son of Alexander de Didsbury, held of him for the term of his life, within the following limits, beginning at Cringlebrook and following the ditch towards the north as far as Holdholmbroc, and so following Holdholmbrook as far as the boundary on the land of Richard de Trafford and Thenmannes Crofte, and thence towards the west as far as the highway and so following the highway as far as Holdholmbrook &c. and the common pasture of Wyddine, wherein his (Matthew de Hathersage) other free tenants participate,—To have and to hold the same for himself and his heirs, Jews and ecclesiastics excepted, on payment of two shillings in silver each year at the feast of St. Michael and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.¹

¹ Sciant &c. q^d ego Math. de Hav'seg' dedi &c. Richō de Trafford & hedibz suis p' homag' et servicio suo totā terr q^m Adam fil. Alexandri de Diddesbur' de me tenuit ad terminum vite infra has divisas incipiend. a 9'ingelbrock et sic sequendo fossatam versus aquilonem usq' ad Holdholmbroc et sic sequendo Holdholmbrook usq' ad divisam q' est in t'ram Ric. de Trafford & thenmannes crofte sequendo usq' occidentem usq' ad alt'am stratā et sic sequendo altā stratā usq' ad Holdholmbrook &c. ac com' pastur' de Wyddine ubi alii lib'i hoes mei de Wyddine 9'municat'; Ten'd et hēnd de me &c. sibi et hēdibz suis exceptis judeis et viris religiosis libē quiete &c.; Redd. ann' duos solidos arg' ad fest' S'e'i Mich. et Annunc' bē Marie. Hiiis testibz D'no Will'o doly; Will'o le Norays; Ric. de Moston; Math'o de Byrkis; Will'o de Diddesbur'; Ric. de Chollert' et aliis.—*Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv. The deed is endorsed "Deed of pasture in Wythington,—Carta Math. de Haverschegh de falingfeld & crynglebroc." The prohibitory clause in the above deed, relating to Jews and ecclesiastics, is worthy of remark, as assisting to determine the precise period at which the deed was executed. It is clear that at this time the Statute of Mortmain had not been passed, which declared it to be unlawful for any person to give his land to a religious house so as to take it back again and hold it of the house, the chief lord in such cases sustaining a loss in the withdrawal of the services due from such lands, services originally provided for the defence of the realm. Before the 9 Henry III.

There is a frequent recurrence to the name in subsequent years. From an inquisition p. m. of Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. dated 5 Henry VIII. (1513), we find him seised at his death of the manor of Trafford, and also of lands in Withington. He was the second knight of that name, and succeeded to the estates in 1484. Later inquisitions, of his son and successor, Sir Edmund Trafford (who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Ralph Longford), in the 21 Henry VIII. (1529), his grandson of the same name, in the 6 Elizabeth (1563), and his great grandson also, Sir Edmund the fifth knight of that name, in the 32 Elizabeth (1589), show the descent of the estate to have been uninterrupted. In the 20 Elizabeth (1577) Sir Edmond Trafford Knt. associated with Sir William West, Lord De la Warre, as joint lords of the manor of Manchester, prefer their claim at Lancaster to courts leet and view of frankpledge, and amercements in Manchester town, Manchester manor, Withington &c. In the 40 Elizabeth (1597) Edward Trafford appears as defendant in an action brought against him and others by one George Holden for forcible entry on ground called The Houghes, Mosgreen, &c., and throwing down plaintiff's house and barn, built on a parcel of the Moss-greene in Wythingeton manor and Houghe manor.

Other proprietors in the reign of Elizabeth were Christian Hulton, widow and devisee of William Hulton of Hulton Esq., who in the 3 Elizabeth (1560) prosecuted Adam Hulton in respect of certain lands in Withington, &c., concerning which there had been a decree:—Edward Syddall of Slade Hall, the original purchaser of that estate, whose inquisition bears date 30 Elizabeth (1587):—Robert Hulme of Hulme Hall in Reddish Esq., inquisi-

(1224) a man might give or sell his lands to ecclesiastics as well as any other persons, unless it was forbidden in the gift of the land to himself, and accordingly the chief lords, on making a grant of land, were accustomed to insert a clause preventing the sale or gift to religious houses. It was in the 54 and 55 Henry III. (1269–70) that the Jews were declared incapable of purchasing or taking a freehold interest in land. Before this, though oppressed and considered as bondmen of the King, they could hold land, subject however to the right of the King to impose heavy taxes upon them and to seize their lands if the said taxes were not paid.

tion dated 43 Elizabeth (1600), whose grandson William Hulme Esq. died seised of the same estate in the 17 Charles I. (1641) : — and Sir Robert Lovell Knt., inquisition dated 44 Elizabeth (1601), to whom, under Didsbury, reference has already been made.

In the reign of James I. amongst the land-owners in Withington we find the name of George Birch of Birch Hall in the neighbouring township of Rusholme, whose inquisition was taken at Manchester 11 James I. (1613). He died seised, amongst other estates, of a house called "The Holt," with the demesne &c. thereunto belonging, situate in Withington, which had descended to him from his mother Anne, daughter and heiress of John Bamford of The Holt Esq. This estate he held from Rowland Mosley Esq. as of his manor of Withington, by military service, namely, the fiftieth part of a knight's fee and the annual payment of two-pence.

Other inquisitions are those of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt. lord of the manor of Withington, dated 12 James I. (1614), his son Rowland Mosley Esq., inquisition dated 15 James I. (1617), and Anne Duckenfield, inquisition dated 18 James I. (1620). Certain estates in Withington and Fallowfield were also held by the family of Prestwich of Hulme, as appears from the inquisition of Edmund Prestwich, dated 9 Charles I. (1633).¹

The chief landed proprietors in the township at the present day are William Tatton Egerton Esq. M.P., the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden, Charles Carill Worsley Esq., the executors of the late John Holford Esq., Nathan Slater Esq., and Samuel Brooks Esq.

Fallowfield is a hamlet in the township of Withington, on the Manchester and Wilmslow turnpike road, at the point of junction of Withington and Rusholme townships. It was thus designated prior to the year 1300. At a very early period it gave its name

¹ The name of Withington being sometimes used in ancient deeds in its more extended sense to indicate the *manor* of that name, whilst at other times it is confined strictly to the *township*, it becomes difficult if not impossible, in all cases, to discriminate between them; an occasional uncertainty in the classification of names and estates under this division must therefore be inevitable.

to a family located there. By a deed executed at Withington and bearing date 11 Edward II. (1317) Thomas, son of John de Fallowfield, conveys to Nicholas, son of Sir Henry de Trafford Knt., a certain plot of wood-land in Fallowfield in the township of Withington, called Dyche Flat, within the following limits, beginning at the cleared space once the property of John, son of Alexander de Fallowfield, thence descending as far as Huchunbothmulache, and thence following the Heystowe between the Oyeche Flat and the aforesaid Huchunbothmulache towards the Mekeldyche, thence ascending the Mekeldyche as far as the land formerly in the possession of the aforesaid John, son of Alexander, — To have and to hold the same to the said Nicholas and his heirs &c.; but if he should happen to die without issue, then with remainder to his brothers in succession, Geoffrey, Thomas, Robert, Richard and Henry.¹

There are yet earlier notices of this family in a deed of conveyance of lands in Rusholme, dated 29 Edward I. (1301), the contracting parties being William, son of Henry son of Houlet de Manchester, and Jordan, son of William de Fallowfield.²

In the 21 Henry VIII. (1529) Sir Edmund Trafford died seised of the manor of Trafford and also of lands in Falowfelde and Yeldehouse, which estates were transmitted to his son and grandson in succession. Another land-owner in Fallowfield was Edmund Prestwich of Holme Esq., whose inquisition post mortem

¹ Sciant p'sentes &c. ego Thom' fil. Joh'is de ffalufeld dedi &c. Nichō fil. Henr' de Trafford militis quād^m placeam terre in bosco in ffalufeld in vill de Wythinton que vocatur Dyche-flat infra has divisas, incipiendo ad cornarē assarti q^d fuit Joh'is fil. Alex' de ffalufeld, descend' usq' ad Huchunbothmulache et sequendo le Heystowe inter le Oyeche-flat et p'd'c'm Huchunbothmulache versus le Mekeldyche, ascend' le Mekeldyche usq' in t'ram que fuit p'd'eti Joh'is fil. Alex'; Hēnd &c. p'd'cto Nichō et hēd'b' de corpē &c. et si conting' &c. rem. Galfrido frī ejus, Thome, Rob'to, Richō, Henr', fratr' ejus. Hiis testib' Henr' de Trafford milit.; Ricō de Trafford rector eccl'ie de Chedle; Matheo de Haydock; Ricō de Moston; Johē fil. Thome de Asshton; Nichō de Wykesworthe cl'ico et aliis. Dat. ap^d Wythinton die veneris pr'x ante festū S'c'i Mich'l in yērne anno Edwardi fil. reg. Edwardi undecimo. — *Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv.

² *Birch Papers*, penes Sir J. W. H. Anson Bart.

is dated 9 Charles I. (1633). In the 31 Henry VIII. (1539) Alice Syddal, widow and executrix of James Syddal, disputes with Edward Holt and others the possession of certain messuages, lands &c. in Fallowfield, late the property of her deceased husband. The Syddals afterwards became the purchasers of Slade Hall in the adjacent township of Rusholme.

At the north-west corner of the township stands the Independent College, a large and somewhat imposing structure, designed for the education of young men intended for the ministry in that denomination. The cost of its erection, including the site (six acres in extent) was about £27,000, which sum was raised by voluntary subscription chiefly among congregational dissenters in Lancashire. It affords accommodation for forty or fifty students, assigning a separate study and bedroom to each, and the annual expense of its support, defrayed for the most part by contributions, averages about £2,500. It is affiliated with the London University, and its course of literary education is such as to qualify its students to graduate at that university. It was first opened April 25, 1843. The college itself is built entirely of dressed stone; the style adopted is that known as Tudor-Gothic, which may be said to have prevailed during the latter part of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries. The principal front is 261 feet in length and 40 feet in height, with a tower in the centre surmounted by a lantern rising to the height of 92 feet; the tower is supported by three-stage buttresses with plain set-offs, placed rectangularwise and terminating in crocketed pinnacles; pinnacles of the same character spring from each angle of the lantern. At each end of the building is a gable advanced considerably forward from the main structure, and lighted by an oriel window forming three sides of an octagon. On the ground-floor is an arcade or covered walk upwards of 200 feet long for shelter and exercise, and on the same floor are extensive kitchens and other offices required for the establishment. The principal apartments on the second story are approached by a broad flight of steps underneath the entrance tower. The en-

trance hall is 32 feet long by 30 feet broad, and is 36 feet in height, open to the roof, which is formed by four large timber arches springing from stone corbels and decorated with tracery. From the hall the principal apartments branch off on each side and consist of a library and dining hall each 50 feet by 25 feet, two others of smaller dimensions, and other apartments. One of the principal features is a corridor running the entire length of the building, connecting the various rooms and staircases: on this floor the windows are all of the same design—three-light, square-headed, divided by a transom and externally protected by a label continued from window to window. From the hall a broad stone staircase leads to a gallery supported on stone piers and arches, from which corridors branching right and left conduct to the students' dormitories in the upper story. At each of the principal fronts the residences of the professors are placed. The wings, each 112 feet in length, are appropriated to the studies and dormitories of the students, having separate entrances, staircases and corridors.

Withington has no Charity exclusively its own. For Charities of Sir Edward Mosley, Chorlton, Boardman, Bland and Linney, in all of which the township participates, see under Didsbury, pp. 100–102.

The earliest Population Returns for Withington are in the year 1774, at which time the township contained within its limits (exclusive of the hamlet of Fallowfield, for which a separate return is made) 71 houses, tenanted by 73 families or 438 individuals: of these one hundred and sixty-two were under the age of 15; fifty-eight above 50; fifteen above 60; eight above 70, and one above 80. The returns made the same year for the hamlet of Fallowfield assign to it 15 houses tenanted by 15 families, consisting of 60 individuals, of whom nineteen were under 15 years of age; seventeen above 50; three above 60; two above 70, and one above 80. In 1801 the entire township contained 133 houses and 743 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 911. In 1821 they numbered 892, showing a decrease in the

population of 19 persons since the last return; houses 143; families 156, of whom 93 were engaged in agriculture, 58 in manufactures, and 5 otherwise. In 1831 there were houses empty 3, ditto occupied 162, being tenanted by 180 families, 85 of whom were chiefly employed in agriculture, 76 in manufactures &c., and 19 otherwise engaged; inhabitants 1048. In 1841 there were 8 empty houses, 7 in the course of erection, and 214 inhabited; total inhabitants 1277. In 1851 there were 6 empty houses, 1 building, and 259 occupied by a population of 1492 persons.

In 1655, 39 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township (exclusive of Fallowfield), amongst whom were Sir Edward Mosley, £7 16s. 6d.; Mrs. Mosley, £1 16s.; Edward Chorleton, Robert Syddall, Edward Worsley of the Tithebarn, Edward Widow Hirst (Edward Hirst's widow), Richard Birch, Richard Smyth, and William Hoult. Their aggregate poor's rate for the half year ending November 25th was £35 16s. 6d. In Fallowfield the ratepayers numbered 9, including Ralph Nicholson, Widow Nicholson, John Bradshaw, Widow Bradshaw, and Widow Sidall. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 336, and the total amount of rate collected £276 18s. 9d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor in the township was £14,017 9s. 11d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land tax, was £311 5s. 5d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county rate, £5,006; in 1829, £6,378; in 1841, £9,565; and in 1853, £12,027.

Withington contained, in 1854, 61 county voters. There were in the same year in the township 3 public-houses and 5 beer-houses. It has no mill or manufactory of any description — no colliery, railway, river, or canal. The area of the township, as stated by Rickman in the Census Returns of 1831, is 2420 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 2489 acres, and the Ordnance Survey at 2501 acres 21 perches.

In its ecclesiastical relations Withington was until recently included in the parochial chapelry of Didsbury. In 1658 the chapel

rate for the repair of Didsbury Chapel was paid by 46 of the inhabitants of Withington, amongst whom were Sir Edward Mosley, Mrs. Anne Mosley and Mr. Richard Jackson. The tithes of the township were payable to the Warden and Fellows of Manchester as rectors of the whole parish. In 1701 the tithes of Withington and Burnage were leased to W. Birch for £32 per annum, and the tithes of Fallowfield to Samuel Bamford for £4. In 1848 the rent-charge paid to the Dean and Chapter in lieu of tithes for Withington alone was £115, besides the further sum of £20 9s., payable to the Impropiator.

Its severance from Didsbury was effected in 1841, in which year a church was erected in Withington for the accommodation of the inhabitants. It is of brick with stone dressings, and is a plain and rather inelegant structure, in the style known as semi-Norman, or transition from the Anglo-Norman to the Early English, the first of the pure Gothic styles. The plan is in the form of a parallelogram, comprising a nave and chancel, with a tower flanking the western gable. The north and south sides are divided into bays by flat pilaster-like buttresses carried up and terminating in the corbel-table supporting the parapet. Each bay is lighted by a narrow circular-headed single-light window, with a drip-stone carried round the head and continued horizontally along the wall to the buttress. In the eastern or chancel gable is a large wheel-window divided into compartments by small shafts. The tower is of four stages (the basement constituting the principal entrance to the church) and is supported by octagonal buttresses at the angles, carried up to the edge of the parapet and terminating in four conical-capped pinnacles. The total cost of its erection was £2,790 4s. 4½d., viz.:—building, £2,240 9s. 8d.; sewerage and labour, £50 4s. 6d.; fixtures and furniture, £101 5s. 11½d.; sundries, including bell and lawyer's bill, £227 1s. 7d.; architect, £110 12s.; clerk of the works, £20; sundries, £40 10s. 8d. The chief promoters were Wilbraham Egerton Esq., who gave the site and £400; T. C. Worsley Esq. £100; Henry Forth Esq. £100; Joseph Birley Esq. £75; Robert Tebbutt Esq. £50;

Bulkeley Price Esq. £50; R. Hodgson Esq. £50; George Withington Esq. £50; F. R. Hodgson Esq. £50; T. Slater Esq. £50; N. Slater Esq. £50; Samuel Brooks Esq. £50; F. A. Philips Esq. £50; Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden £50; T. Mottram Esq. £50; Miss Atherton £50; F. Philips Esq. £50. The church was consecrated October 21, 1841.

The schools which are also of brick, and lie closely contiguous to the church, were erected in 1844 at a cost of £600. The site was given by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. The names of the principal contributors are T. C. Worsley Esq. £50; Edmund Wright Esq. £50; Robert Gladstone Esq. £50; N. Slater Esq. £50; John Souchay Esq. £25; Bulkeley Price Esq. £20; Rev. F. H. Hooper £20; — Davies Esq. £20; F. Hodgson Esq. £20; to which must be added a Government grant of £100. Accommodation is provided for 160 children.

In 1855 a parsonage-house was added; towards which Wilbraham Egerton Esq. contributed £200; Edmund Wright Esq. £100; Nathan Slater Esq. £75; John Barratt Esq. £60; C. P. Henderson Esq. £50; Rev. Theophilus Bennett £30; Rev. R. W. Burton £25; Richard Hampson Esq. £20. It was erected at a cost of £1,500.

Possessing great influence in the township as long resident there was the family of Mosley, in descent from Robert Moseley the possessor of a burgage in Manchester near the Bridge in the 13 Edward IV. Jenkyn Moseley gent. resided in Witlington in 1465. He married an heiress whose name has not been recorded, but whose family arms (or a fess sable between three eaglets displayed sable) are to the present day quartered by his descendants, and have been recognized by the Heralds' College. The name of his residence was Hough End, so called from the Anglo-Saxon *hof*, a dwelling, and *ende*, a boundary; the house being situated near to the boundary line of the two townships of Withington and Chorlton. He was succeeded by his son James Moseley, who attained his full age in the 6 Henry VII. (1490). James Moseley was the father of Edward, who married Margaret, daugh-

ter of Alexander Elcocke of Stockport gent., and died in 1571, leaving three sons, Oswald, Nicholas and Anthony. At this time a spirit of commercial enterprise had diffused itself throughout the land, and the two younger sons of Edward Moseley of Hough End, Nicholas and Anthony, embarked in trade in Manchester. Their business prospering, it was determined that one of them should take up his residence in London in order to direct the exportation of such of their goods as were destined for foreign markets. Nicholas accordingly proceeded thither, and success still attending his efforts he quickly advanced in fame and fortune. He became an alderman of Aldersgate Ward, and in 1590 served the office of sheriff. In 1594 he was elected an alderman of Langbourn Ward, and in 1599 he became lord mayor of London. During his term of office apprehensions were entertained of a meditated attempt on the part of Spain to reverse the late discomfiture of their "invincible armada," and an invasion of England was thought imminent. The citizens of London undertook to furnish the Queen with 6000 soldiers and sixteen ships of war; and this duty, as well as the providing other adequate defences for the city, was undertaken and carried out under the superintendence and by the energy of the lord mayor. Ireland too had begun to show symptoms of uneasiness, and for quelling an anticipated insurrection a further levy of 500 men and several ships was made upon the citizens, who cheerfully responded. This was done chiefly at the suggestion of the lord mayor; and so entirely did it meet with the Queen's approval that before the expiration of his mayoralty he received the honour of knighthood, her majesty presenting him at the same time with a handsomely-carved oak bedstead and other articles of furniture for the new house which he had recently erected at Hough End on the site of the old mansion, the seat of his ancestors. In 1596 he purchased the manor of Manchester from his friend John Lacy, citizen of London, and added yet further to his influence in that neighbourhood by the purchase of lands in Heaton Norris and in the township of Withington. In conformity with a custom at that time prevalent

and, it is stated, in compliment to his son Edward, then rising into note as a barrister, he changed his name from Moscley to Mosley, so that it might the better harmonise with the punning motto he had recently adopted — “Mos legem regit” — Custom or precedent rules the law. In 1604 he was appointed high sheriff of the county of Lancaster. Sir Nicholas was twice married; his first wife being Margaret, daughter of Hugh Whitbroke of Bridge-north gent., by whom he had issue Rowland, his eldest son and successor, Anthony and Edward, besides other children who died in their infancy. He married secondly in 1592 Elizabeth, daughter of John Rookes gent. and relict of ——— Hendley of the city of London gent., who survived him. His later years were passed at Hough End, where he died in 1612 at the advanced age of 85. He was buried at Didsbury in the Mosley Chapel at the south side of the chancel, a handsome monument being erected to his memory by his widow.¹

WILL OF SIR NICHOLAS MOSLEY KNT.

In the name of God, Amen. I S^r Nicholas Mosley of the Hough End in the countie of Lancaster Knyghte, beinge in good and p^rfecte memorie (the Lord bee prayesd) doe ordaine and make this my laste Will and Testam^t wherein is containyd th^r effecte of my laste will. And ffirste and principallie I comēde my soule unto Almyghtie God my Maker and Redeemer wth a stedfaste hope to bee saved by the mercie and merritts of o^r Lord and onlie Savior Jesus Christe: and my bodie to bee buried in the Chapell of Didsburie or wheare ytt shall please God to appoynte. And for such seignories, manors, lordshipps, landes, tenementes and hereditamentes, together wth such leases, goodes, debtes, credittes, cattalls, and chattalls as ytt hath pleased Almightye God to make me overseer and stewarde of in this transitorie worlde, I will, geve, bequeath and devise the same as hereafter followeth; that is to saie, ffirst my will and mynde is that Dame Elizabeth nowe my wief shall have soe muche, if shee bee contented therewith, as my

¹ *Family Memoirs* by Sir Oswald Mosley Bart., pp. 8, 9. 1849.

sonne Rowlande and myself have covenanted to paye her yearlie, w^{ch} is the some of three hundred poundes ev'rie yeare duringe her n'rall lief, and the some of xxx^{li} a yeare more to bee payde duringe her widowhood for her house rente, in such sorte as my said sonne Rowland Mosley and myself have covenanted shee shall have. Also I give and bequeath to my said wief in lieu of her chamber two of my beste beddes wth the ffurniture accordingle, excepte the beste tapestrie cov'ringe and the beste bedstocke alsoe excepted. Also I give and bequeath unto my said wief all such plate as shee had att the tyme I married her, save onlie one pott w^{ch} was stoolene awaye in the tyme of my mayroltie in London. And also I give and bequeath unto my said wief her chaine and brasletts and her wearinge apparell and all thinges hercunto belonginge. And alsoe I give and bequeath unto my saide wief my coache and coache horses wth the furniture thereof; and alsoe all such lynnens as were my said wifes before I married her, and a restinge in the house; butt if my said wief bee not therewth contented butt shall in anie wise sue and trouble my executo^r or his assignes for anie furth^r or oth^r portions, that then my will and mynde is that my form^r guiftes and bequeathes shall cease and bee utterlie voyde and the same to remayne to my executo^r and his assignes. Alsoe I give to a schoolem^r to teache scoole att Chollerton Chapell five poundes ev'ie yeare duringe twentie yeares nexte after my decease oute of my rentes of the Denorie of Bridge North, yearelie to bee receaved; Provided alwaies that my two sonnes Rowland Mosley and Edward Mosley and my nephew Oswolde Mosley sonne to my late broth^r Anthonie Mosley or anie two of them, theire heires or assignes, shall have the nominacōn of the said schoolem^r; and provided alsoe that the said scholem^r shall not take of anie scholler above vj^d a quarter of a yeares teacheinge; and alsoe that my two sonnes and my said nephewe or anie two of them theire heires or assignes shall have power to discharge the said schoolem^r if hee bee negligent in teachinge his schollers, and to appoynte an oth^r in his place. And I will and desire that the said schoolem^r maye reade praire three tymes ev'ic week in the said chapell. Alsoe I

will and desire that the mayntenance w^{ch} Mr. Chorleton gave to the said secole, beynge five poundes yearlie or above, maye bee employed to the said use accordeinge to his guifte. Alsoe my will and mynde is that I or my exeecuto^r shall pay unto my sonne Edward Mosley wthin one whoole yeare after the deate hereof the fulle and iuste some of nyne hundredth and fyftie poundes of lawfull money of England p^rvided alwaies and upon condieon that the saide Edward Mosley doe and shall conveaye and assure unto the said Rowland Mosley his heires and assignes all that his capitall messuage or mansion house ealled The Lodge, in Alpore [Alport] Parke, wth all houses and buyldinges belongynge to the same in Alpore neare Manehester wthin the countie of Lancaster, w^{ch} is parte of the saide parke and impayled groundes called Alpore Parke, and his parte of the soyle and grounde betweene the parke pale and the river of Irwill; and alsoe all his parte of the feilde ealled Alpore feilde wth two closes lieinge and beynge in Alpore aforesaid; and all such other intereste as hee the said Edward Mosley hath in the said house and groundes. Alsoe I doe give, graunte, confirme and devise unto my said sonne Edward Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to bee begotten, all and singuler these houses or tenements and gardens in Manechester aforesaid w^{ch} I boughte, p^reured or purchased of Alexander Sorocolde and Stephen Browne deceased wth all and singuler rentes, rev[']cons, services and hereditaments to them and ev[']ie or anie of them app^rtayninge or belongynge. Alsoe I doe allowe of and confirme unto my said sonne Edward Mosley all such money as hee heretofore receaved by my guifte of S^r Walter Areott K^t and of George Birche gent., amountinge to ffoure hundreth poundes; and alsoe one hundreth poundes w^{ch} I gave unto him when hee entered upon his office. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my eldest sonne Rowland Mosley the moyetie of the Deanerie of Bridge Northe and all and singuler the landes, rentes and hereditamentes thereunto belonginge for and duringe the n[']rall lives of Dame Elizabeth

my nowe wief, and from and after the death and decease of the saide Dame Elizabeth my wief, my will and mynd is and I doe hereby will, give and devise unto my said sonne Edward Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to be begotten the said moyetic of the said Deanerie of Bridge North, and all and singuler the landes, rentes and hereditaments thereunto belongynge, wth all priviledges, jurisdic^{co}ns, members, teithes and appurtenances thereto belongynge charded and chargeable neverthelesse wth the Kinges Mat^{ies} rentes. Alsoe ytt ys my will and mynde and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said sonne Edward Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to bee begotten the oth^r moyetic of the Deanerie of Bridge North, latelie p^ucured or purchased by me of Will^m Whitmore Esquier, and all and singuler the landes, rentes and heriditam^{ts} in Bridge North aforesaid, and in the counties of Salopp and Stafford or eith^r of them to the said moyetic belonginge or app^otayninge wth all priviledges, jurisdic^{co}ns, members, tythes and appurtenances thereunto belongynge, charded and chargeable nev^{er}theless wth the yearelie rente or so^me of fyve poundes, before by me given and bequeathed to a schoolem^r to teache schoole att Chollerton Chapell duringe the said twentie yeares nexte after my decease, w^{ch} yearelie rente of five poundes my will is shall bee payde att the feaste of St. Michaell th^o arkangle and the annunciac^on of the blessed Virgin Marie by equall p^ocoⁿs or wthin fourtie daies of eith^r of the said feastes nexte ensueinge, the firste payem^t to beginne att wheth^r of the said feastes shall nexte happen after my decease, ov^r and besydes the Kinges Mat^{ies} rente. And alsoe I doe hereby give, ratifie and allowe to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., all that and those the manno^{rs} and lordshippes of Houghe, Whithington and Didsburie, and all and ev^{er}ie the landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev^ocoⁿs, services and hereditam^{ts} in Houghe, Whithington, Didsburie, Burnedge, Eaton Wood greene, ffalloweield, Houghend, Yealdhouse, Moss-greene, Ladicbarne, Rushoolme, Barscrofte, Chorleton, Chollerton, Stretford, Turvemosse, Lydle heath and Birchall houses, in

as large and ample mann^r as they bee stated and conveyed unto him by one decde of Intayle bearinge date the xxviiith daie of July inste in the fourth yeare of the raigne of the Kinges Ma^{tie} that nowe is as oth^r waies. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde, and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the seignorie manno^r and lordshipp of Manchester in the countie of Lancaster w^{ch} I contracted for or purchased of or from Mr. John Lacie late of London, cloth-worker, and all the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cons, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said manno^r of Manchester in anie wise app'tayneinge or belongynge excepte certayne houses or tenem^{ts} w^{ch} I have hereby given to my said sonne Edward Mosley and his heires males, and were boughte by me of Stephen Browne and of Alexander Sorocoulde deceased. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe hereby give, will, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the manno^r or lordshipp of Heaton Norres in the said countie of Lancaster, and all and singuler the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cons, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said manno^r or lordshipp in anie wise app'tayninge or belonginge w^{ch} I latelie purchased of the Lord Gerrard that nowe is. Alsoe I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and the heires males of his bodie, &c., all and singuler the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cons, services and hereditam^{ts} in Streetchouse Lane in the said countie of Lancaster w^{ch} I purchased amongste oth^r thinges of the Ladie Lovell. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and the heires males of his bodie, &c., the manno^{rs} or lordshippes of Cheetham, Cheetwood and Brighte meade, wth all my righte, tytle, intereste and service w^{ch} I have yett to come by vertue of one lease of ten thousande yeares granted to me by the right honorable Will^m Earle of Derby, wth all and singuler rentes, rev[']cons, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge or in anie man^r appertayneinge. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe

hereby will, give and devise to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the lordshippes of Prestall Lee and Walkden and eith^r of them, in the countie of Lancaster, and two messuages and tenem^{ts} wth all landes, rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge, situate, lyeinge and beinge in Barlow and Houlme in the said countie of Lancaster, all w^{ch} I purchased of S^r Edmund Trafford Kt., wth all and singuler rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said lordshippes anie or ev'rie of them app'tayninge or belongynge. Provided alwaies, and ytt is my will and mynde that if my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley doe not paie or cause to bee payd or tendereth unto my said sonne Edward Mosley the aforesaid some of nyne hundred and fyftie poundes heretofore by this my will limited and appoynted, that then my will and mynde is, and I doe hereby will, give and devise to my said sonne Edward Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the aforesaid manno^{rs} or lordshippes of Prestall Lee and Walkden and eith^r of them wth the messuages, rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge or app'tayneing. And although I have heretofore conveyed unto my sonne Anthonie and his heires one moyetic of the Deanerie of Bridge North in possession for his p'ferment in marriage xij or xiiij yeares agoe w^{ch} hee sythence hath soulede, and then and before have given him greate somes of money amountinge to twelve hundred poundes w^{ch} beinge given unto him in my lief tyme and longe before my death, I thinke to bee a sufficient advancem^t, togeth^r wth such p'ferm't as I doe by this my laste will bestowe upon his daughter, and therefore doe not mention my said sonne Anthonie Mosley before in this my laste will, but houlde him and soe herebie declare him to be fullie advanced, yett notwthstandinge my will and mynde is that my sonne Rowland Mosley and his heires shall oute of the capitall messuage called the Whitehall and the landes thereunto belonginge, scituate, lyeinge and beinge in Houghe in the p'ishe of Wilmeslowe in the countie of Chester, paye unto the said Anthonie Mosley my sonne for his better mayntenance twentie poundes a yeare of currante money of Eng-

land if hee therewth bee contented and satisfied, viz^t ev^rie quarter five poundes duringe the n^rall lief of the said Anthonie y^t ytt shalbe from tyme to tyme yearelie duringe his n^rall lief soe thoughte convenient and needfull att and by the discrecōn of my nephewes Oswould Mosley of the Ancoates and ffrancis his broth^r, and of Alexander Elcoeke, sonne to my late cosin ffrancis Elcoeke of Stockporte, or of anie two of them, their heires or assignes, and not oth^rwise. And alsoe that my said sonne Rowlande Mosley and his heires or assignes shall out of the said capitall messuage called the Whitehall and the landes thereunto belonging paye unto M^rgarett Mosley, daughter to my said sonne Anthonie Mosley, for her maynetenance duringe her n^rall lief sixe poundes thirteene shillinges foure pence yearelie of lyke currante money of England att the lyke feaste dayes by equall p^eōns, viz. xxxij^s iiij^d a quarter if ytt shalbe soe thoughte from tyme to tyme conveniente and needfull by the discrecōn of my said nephewes Oswould and ffrancis Mosley and my said cosin Alexander Elcoeke, their heires or assignes or anie two of them, if the terme contayned in the said indenture of lease soe longe endure. And after th^r expiracōn of the lease my will and mynde is that my said sonne Rowland Mosley and his heires shall well and trulie paye or cause to bee payde unto the said M^rgarett Mosley duringe her n^rall lief sixe poundes xij^s iiij^d a yeare, viz^t three and thirtie shillinges foure pence a quarter att the feaste aforesaid if ytt shalbe thought needfull by the p^ties above named or anie two of them, their heires or assignes, oute of all the landes that I have given to my said sonne Rowlande Mosley and his heires. Alsoe my will and mynde is that if the p^rvision alreadie made for my sisters by me and my friendes bee under the value of xx^{tie} nobles a peece, then I bynde th^r executo^r of this my will to paye oute of my goodes unto ev^rie of my sisters that have not p^rvision to the some of vj^{li} xij^s iiij^d a peece yearlie, the sūme of xij^s iiij^d a quarter att the feaste aforesaid duringe their n^rall liefes respectivelie, and that ytt shalbe soe thoughte needfull by the sup^rvisors of this my laste will or the more p^rte of them.

Alsoe I doe furth^r give and confirme unto the worp^{ll} the Maister Wardens of the Companie of Clothworkers in London all such landes tenem^{ts} and hereditam^{ts} as were purchased by them in my name, and accordinge to a form^r will by me made of the purpose onelie. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath to ev^rie one of my houshold s^rvantes that have served me five yeares, sixe and twentie shillinges eighte pence a peece ov^r and besides theire wages; and to ev^rie one of my s^rvantes that have s^rved me one yeare, tenne shillinges a peece ov^r and besydes theire wages. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby give and bequeath unto fouretie poore men and twentie poore women ev^rie one a gowne; and to ev^rie poore housholder wthin this p^rish that shalbe att my fun^{all} iiij^d a peece. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath unto the poore of the towne of Manchester xx^l to bee distributed amongste them by fyve poundes a yeare att the feaste of St. Michael and the Birthe of o^r Lorde God by even porcōns by the discrecōn of my executo^{rs} and ov^rseers. Alsoe I will, give and bequeath unto the poore of the townshippes of Whithington and Heaton Norres the lyke sume of xx^{li} to bee distributed in such waie and sorte as th^r oth^r xx^{li} to the poore of Manchester before by me appoynted to bee distributed. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath to George Allen my warde, his marriage and warde shipp, and all the benefitte of his landes since he came to age. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde that my plate shalbe equallie divided betwixe my two sonnnes Rowland Mosley and Edward Mosley, all saveinge my basen and yewere of silv^r w^{ch} I give and bequeath to my said sonne Rowland Mosley as an heire-loome to my house. Alsoe, whereas I have a lease to me and my assignes for terme of the n^rall liefes of my sonnnes Rowland Mosley and Anthonie Mosley and of the longer liver of them of one capitall messuage and landes thereunto belonginge wth th^r appurtenances co^monlie called Whitehall, scituate in the Houghe wthin the p^rish of Wilmeslowe in the countie of Chester, ytt is my will and mynde and I doe assigne ov^r the said lease of the said capitall messuage called Whitehall, and of all the

landes and hereditam^{ts} wth the appurtenances thereto belonginge to the said Rowland Mosley my sonne, his heires, executo^{rs} and assignes duringe the terme of three score yeares next ensueinge the date hereof if the said Rowland Mosley or Anthonie Mosley or eith^r of them soe longe live, the said Rowland Mosley, his heires, executo^{rs} and assignes payeing to the said Anthonie Mosley the yearlie so^{me} of xx^{li}, to his daughter M'garett xx^{tie} nobles in such man^r and forme as is before in this my last will limited and expressed. Alsoe it is my will and mynde and I doe give and devise to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, his heires and assignes, all my messuages, landes, tenem^{ts} and hereditam^{ts} in Sale in the countie of Chester, wth all and singuler rentes, revcōs, services and hereditam^{ts} to the same belonginge or in any waie app'tayneinge in as large, ample and beneficāll man^r as I houlde the same. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby assigne ov^r unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, and to his executo^{rs} and assignes, my lease of the teithe corne of Heaton Norres, wth all my righte, tytle and intereste therein yett to come and unexpyred, charged and chargeable nev'thelesse wth the so^{me} of xx^{li} before by me given to the poore of the towne of Manchester, and alsoe the so^{me} of xx^{li} before by me given to the poore of Whithington and Heaton Norres, if the tearme of the lease of the said teithe corne soe long endure. Also whereas I heretofore dyd take a lease of Mr. Langford of the house and grounde wherein I dwell for three score and tenne yeares whereof there bee div^{rs} yeares yett unexpyred, my will and mynde is and I doe assigne the said lease wth all the revcōs of yeares yett unexpyred, and all my intereste of and in my saide house and grounde unto the saide Rowlande Mosley, my said eldeste sonne, his executo^{rs} and assignes duringe all the residue of the said tearme, and upon condicōn that my said sonne Rowlande Mosley shall take upon him the executorshipp of this my laste will. After my fun'all expenses discharged and my debtes payde, I give and bequeath unto him the said Rowland Mosley, my sonne, all the reste of my goodes and cattalles whatsoever moveable and imoveable. And I doe revoake and disannull

all form^r wills heretofore by me made, saveinge onelie my will made to the Wor^{ll} Companie of Cloath workers in London. Alsoe I doe ordaine and make the said Rowlande Mosley, my sonne, sole executo^r of this my laste will and testam^t. And I desire my loveinge nephewes Oswell Mosley and ffrancis Mosley, sonnes of my late brother Anthonie Mosley deceased, and my cosins Jacob Procter and Alexander Elcocke to bee sup'visors of this my laste will and testam^t. And if anie contention or variance shall happen, as God forbid, amongste anie of the p'sons in this my laste will named touchenge anie charge therein containd, given or bequeathed, or oth^rwise, then I shall desire my said sup'visors of this my laste will to bee aydinge and assistinge to my executo^r for the orderinge and endinge of the cause. And I doe give unto ev'rie one of them my said sup'visors l^s. a peece to make ev'rie one of them a ringe to weare for my sake. In witnes whereof I the said S^r Nicholas Mosley to this my laste will and testament have putt my hande and seale the xijth daie of November in the tenth yeare of the raigne of o^r Sov'aigne Lord James, by the grace of God kinge of England, ffrance and Ireland, defendo^r of the ffaithes &c.; and of his highnes raigne of Scotland the xlvjth &c.

Witnesses: — Robert Gee, Robert Barlow, Lawrence Crowder, Will^m Harrinson.

Elizabeth, second wife of Sir Nicholas Mosley, survived her husband about five years, and dying in 1617 was also buried at Didsbury.

WILL OF DAME ELIZABETH MOSLEY.

In the name of God, Amen. I Dame Elizabeth Mosley, widowe, late the wyfe of S^r Nicholas Mosley, Knight, deceased, beinge at this pⁿte sicke in bodie yet of p^rfete memory (the Lord God be praysed for it), consideringe that deathe is certaine to all men, and the tyme thereof most incertaine, and beinge desirous to dispose of such quantitie of worldlie goodes as it hath pleased God to blesse me wthall in suche sorte as may tende to the honour of God, the quietnes of my owne minde and the comforte of my friendes

and welwillers, doe make and ordaine this my laste will and testam^t in manner and forme followinge: ffirste therefore and principallie I commend my soule and spirit into the handes of Almighty God my Creator trustinge to be saved by the merit^{ts}, death and passion of my alone Savio^r and Redeemer Christe Jesus, to whom be all prayse and glorie ascribed both nowe and ever, Amen: and my bodie I commend to Christian buriall desiringe my executo^{rs} hereafter named that they will cause the same to be decentlie interred in the Chappell of Diddisburie neere to the place where my late husbnde S^r Nicholas Mosley was buried, and that in the day tyme and in the company of neighbours and not privlie nor in the night tyme. And yt is my will and desire that my executo^{rs} shall disburse or lay forth one hundred and three score pounds in or about my funerall, or more if they in their owne discrecōns shall thinke it ffittinge, whereof and amongst others I would request these p[']sons followinge to were blacke at my fun[']all, either gownes or cloakes, at the discrecōn of myne executo^{rs}, that is to say my sonne-in-lawe S^r Edward Mosley knight, my daughter Mosley and her waytinge gentlewoman, my brother-in-law Oswald Mosley of the Garrett, and his sonne Oswald Mosley, my sister Cudworth, my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates and his wife, my cosen ffrancis Mosley his brother, my brother-in-law Adam Holland and his wife, Margaret Mosley daughter of my sonne Anthonie, Elizabeth Tatton and Margaret Hartley my servants, William Sparke and his wife, Jone Grantham wife of John Grantham, Jane Holland, Robert Barlowe of Heaton, ffrancis Pendleton, Lawrence Crowther, Edward Chorlton, Richard Chorlton, Robert Brooke, John Twiford, Richard Comelach and Richard Jackson of the Hough End. And for the residewe of my goodes, rightes and credittes (after my fun[']rall expenses discharged) I give and bequeath the same as followeth; and ffirste I give to the poore of the towne of Manchester tenne poundes, and to the poore of the Lordshippe of the Houghe, Chollerton and Heaton Norres tenne poundes; and in signe of my remembrance of my kinsfolkes servantes and

friendes hereafter mencōned, I give and bequeath unto my brother John Rookes of Normanton in Lincolneshire three score and tenne poundes if he be livinge at the tyme of my decease, and if he shall not be then livinge, then the same to be given and distributed to and amongst all his children (exceptinge onlie his sonne Richard.) Item I give to my said nephewe Richard Rookes eldest sonne of my said brother John Rookes three score and tenne poundes if he be livinge, if not then to his children. Item I give to that sonne of my brother Robert Rookes whoe latelie came over with my nephewe Richard Rookes into Lancashire ffive poundes. Item I give to my halfe brother John Rookes of London ffortie poundes, to be paid him by five poundes a yeare. Item I give to Marie late wife of my brother William Rookes five poundes. Item I give to my daughter Mosley my best gold bracelettes and my beste peticoate, and to her sonne and daughter either of them a guilte canne. Item I give to Anne Whitmore daughter of William Whitmore of London esquier five markes to buy some pretie jewell to weare for a remembrance from me. Item to my cosen Oswald Mosleyes wife of the Ancoates my lesser gold bracelettes and one of my beste peticoates. Item I give to Margaret Mosley daughter of my sonne Anthonie Mosley twelve poundes, the same to remaine in the handes of my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates untill shee come to sufficient age to give a dischardge for the same, and my said cosen to allowe her such profite for the same towards her p'sent maintenance as he in his discrecōn shall thinke ffittinge. Item I give to Nicholas sonne of my said cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates flforty shillinges. Item I give to Nicholas sonne of my said cosen ffrauncis Mosley flforty shillinges. Item I give towards the bewtifyinge of Diddisbury Chappell five poundes. Item I give to M^{ris} Walker wife of M^r Walker of London, protho-notorie, my velvet cloake and three poundes in money; and to her daughter Elizabeth three poundes; and to M^{ris} Blanche wife of Alexander Glover of London three poundes, to buy them gold rings wthall. Item I give to M^{ris} Anne Page of London ffifty poundes and my crimson curtaines and vallences and twoe Mock-

adoc cushions. Item I give to my old servant Robert Hyndley of London £5. Item I give to Robert Swanne of London five poundes. Item I give to olde M^{ris} Prestwich of Hulme three poundes. Item I give to the children of M^r William Gerrard late clerke of the Duchie, deceased, twentie poundes, the same to be distributed amongst them at the discrecō of M^r ffelixe Gerrard their unckle, because I myself am ignorante howe many of them are nowe livinge or where they remaine. Item I give to the sonnes and daughters of M^r Richard Gerrard late parson of Stockporte deceased to every of them therty shillinges a peece. Item I give to Humphrey Davenportes esquire ffive poundes, and to his wife my velvett muffle. Item I give to old M^{ris} Sutton my beste hoode. Item to my sonne Anthony Mosley ffive poundes. Item I give to my cosens Ellen Shewell, Alice Cudworth, Anne Mosley, frauncis Mosley, Edward Mosley, Richard Mosley, and Rowland Mosley ffive poundes a peece. Item I give unto Anne Mosley daughter of my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates ffive poundes. Item I give unto my cosen John Haughtons wife of Manchester three poundes, and to his daughter Judith Haughton my leaste hoope ringe of gold. Item I give to my said servant Elizabeth Tatton my beste bedd wth the vallences, crimson cov'ringe and all the furniture thereunto belonginge, my better greate boxe wth a drawinge tyll therein, one needleworke cushion twoe crimson ymbroydered cushions, my scarlet peticoate wth three gardes of velvet, the one halfe of all such my lynnens as I shall not give or dispose of either by this my will or otherwise, and three score and tenne poundes in money. Item I give to my said servant Margaret Hartley the bedd w^{ch} shee lyeth on wth all the furniture thereunto belonginge, my newer broad boxe w^{thout} any tyll, one needle-worke cushion, twoe crimson ymbroydered cushions, the other halfe of all such my lynnens as I shall not give or dispose of by this my will or otherwise, and therty poundes in money. Item I give to Alice Sparke a table cloathe and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte, twoe of my beste needleworke cushions, and six poundes in money. Item I give to Jone Grantham wif of the

said John Grantham a table cloath and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte and fortie shillings in money. Item I give to the wife of the said Robert Barlowe of Heaton Norres another table cloath and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte and fortie shillings in money. Item I give to Robert Barlowes two aunes fortie shillings a peece. Item I give to Robert Barlowes mother fortie shillings. Item I give to Margaret Robinson wife of Robert Robinson five poundes. Item I give to the minister of Diddisburie for the tyme being fortie shillings. Item to Jane Hollande three poundes; to John fletcher fortie shillings; to Edward Hulme fortie shillings; to Edmund Mosley fortie shillings; to Ottiwell Barlowe five poundes; to William Gibbon fortie shillings; to Ellen Prestwich fortie shillings; to Roger Barlowe twentie shillings; to Margaret Seddon fortie shillings; to James Birch fortie shillings; to William Langford fortie shillings; to Elizabeth daughter of Robert Brooke twentie shillings; to Anne Walmisley twentie shillings; to Anne Hartley eleaven shillings in gold; to William Harrison three poundes; to old Richard Hartley tenne shillings; to Oliver Hulme tenne shillings; to old James Hartley tenne shillings; to old John Hunt tenne shillings; to Robert Hulme at the Chappell stile in Chollerton tenne shillings; to Alice Hartley twentie shillings; to William Ashton dwellinge neere to Hollynfeyre fortie shillings; to Thomas Renshaw of Sale fortie shillings; to William Garnett fortie shillings; to Robert Brooke fortie shillings, and to his wife twentie shillings; to Lawrence Crowther fortie shillings; to Edward Chorltons wife fortie shillings; to Cecilie Chorlton her daughter-in-lawe to the use of her children fortie shillings; to yonge Alexander Hartleys wife twentie shillings; to Isabell Smyth widdowe twentie shillings; and to every one that shalbe servant in the house at the tyme of my decease and not herein formerlie noiated six shillings and eightpence; to John Tompson sonne of my sister Anne Tompson deceased foure poundes and to his sister Katharine three poundes; to George fletcher twentie shillings; to Ellyn Rudd twentie shillings; to Katharine Chatterton three poundes; to John Lees

twentic shillinges ; and more to Margaret Hartley a scarlet peti-
cote wth twoe gardes of velvet. Item to my sister Hollande five
poundes ; and to John Brooke fortie shillinges ; all the residuc of
my goodes, rightes and credittes not heerein or hecreby formerly
given or bequeathed I leave to my executors and overseers heer-
after nominated to be disposed of to such person and in such
manner and forme as to my said executors and overseers shalbe
thoughte fittinge. And of this my laste Will and Testament I
doe nominate and intreate my said sonne-in-lawe S^r Edward Mosley
Knight and my said cosen Oswald Mosley of Ancoates to be
executors, givinge to either of them tenne poundes a peece for
their paines, if they or either of them shall proove this my will
and take uppon them the charge of the said executorshippe. And
I doe likewise nominate and request the said William Sparke and
Robert Barlowe to be overseers of this my will, and for their
paines to be taken thearein I doe give to either of them tenne
poundes a peece. And if the said S^r Edward Mosley Knight and
the said Oswald Mosley shall refuse to proove this my will or to
be executors thereof, then, and not otherwise, I doe further noiate
and appointe the said William Sparke and Robert Barlowe to be
executors of this my will, desiringe them to see the same honestlie
and dylie p^rformed accordinge to my truste in them reposed. In
witness whereof, &c.

The inventory of the goods and chattels of Dame Elizabeth
Mosley is dated May 24, 1617, and the total valuation is £1,259
16s. 3d.

Imp.	Best bedd and ffurniture, excepte bed- stockes.....	xij ^{li}	
It.	One scarlet petticoate w th three gardes of velvet	ij ^{li}	x ^s
It.	One scarlet petticoate w th twoe gardes of velvet	ij ^{li}	
It.	One oulde scarlet petticoate		xxx ^s
It.	One crimson sattin petticoate	v ^{li}	
It.	One damask petticoate ymbroidred ...	v ^{li}	

It.	One velvett hudd	xx ^s
It.	An oulde gowne, a kirtle, a remnante of grogan and twoe yeardes of scyprus	iiij ^{li}
It.	Halfe the rest of the lynnyn praised...	xxviiij ^{li} xij ^s
It.	One paire of bracelettes of gould	x ^{li}
It.	Twoe silver cannes, percell guilte	vj ^{li} xiiij ^s iiij ^d
It.	A broken fflanne	x ^s
It.	An old coache and twoe coache horses	vij ^{li}
It.	One goulde cheane 21 oz. & $\frac{3}{4}$ at 1v ^s oz.	lx ^{li}
It.	Three tuns, one great salte w th a cover, a trencher salt, a standinge salt, three boules, twoe dozen spoones, twoe cannes, one broken boule and broken silver — all waying 174 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ at v ^s the oz.....	xliij ^{li} xiiij ^s ix ^d

By his first marriage Sir Nicholas Mosley left three sons — Rowland his successor, Anthony whose dissolute habits greatly estranged him from his friends, and Edward a barrister of Gray's Inn, M.P. for Preston, who became distinguished in his profession, receiving the appointment of his Majesty's attorney-general of the duchy of Lancaster and the honour of knighthood in 1614, the purchaser of Rolleston, now the chief residence of the Mosley family.

Rowland Mosley Esq., eldest son of the testator, married first, Anne, daughter of Humphrey Houghton of Manchester Gent., and was left a widower in 1613 with one only surviving child, a daughter, Margaret, wife of William Whitmore of Appley in the county of Salop Esq. Within a year of his wife's death he married a second time, Anne, daughter of Francis Sutton Esq., sister and coheiress of Richard Sutton of Sutton in the county of Chester Esq., by whom he left issue an only son, Edward, born in 1616, heir also to his uncle Sir Edward Mosley of Rolleston Knt. Rowland Mosley Esq. was high sheriff of Lancashire in 1616, in which year he died. His inventory, dated March 31, 1617, returns his goods and chattels at £2,709 15s. 2½d. The chief items

enumerated are as follows: Plate, guilt and unguilt, 196^{li}; in armor and munition, 9^{li}; 3 coche mares, 24^{li}; (he had fourteen horses in all); in linnens, 115^{li} 2^s 4^d; in goulde and silver redie in the house, 179^{li} 12^s 1^{ob}; in debtes owinge to him, 654^{li} 7^s 1^d; in bookes and one drumme, 3^{li}.

Edward Mosley Esq., his only son and heir, was a staunch adherent to the royal cause in the civil dissensions which agitated the land during the reign of Charles I. In 1642 he placed Alport Lodge, one of his residences situated in Deansgate, Manchester, at the disposal of Lord Strange, when that nobleman laid siege to Manchester in the King's name. In the following year he joined a detachment of the royalist forces in Cheshire under Sir Thomas Aston and Sir Vincent Corbet, and suffering defeat (March 3) from the parliamentarians under Sir William Brereton, near Middlewich, was taken prisoner. After his release his estates were sequestrated, and from an ordinance of Parliament dated September 21, 1647, we find them restored to him on payment of a fine of £4,874 as the punishment of his "delinquency." His attachment to the royal cause entailed upon him other heavy losses. He advanced money on several occasions for the King's use, and that to a large amount, and his property at Alport sustained much injury, the house being burnt to the ground during the siege of Manchester. In 1640 his services were recognized by the King, and a patent of baronetcy was granted to him. In 1642 he was appointed high sheriff of the county of Stafford. He died at Hough's End in 1657, having impoverished himself greatly by his attachment to the King, as well as by his own extravagance.

Amongst the papers &c. left by Humphrey Chetham, the Founder, and now deposited in the hospital in Manchester which bears his name, is a series of letters relating to certain pecuniary obligations incurred by Sir Edward. The total amount of the debt owing to Mr. Chetham appears to have been about £4,000, and the mother and sister of Sir Edward had become sureties for its repayment. A Mr. Allestrye was also concerned in the negotiation as a creditor of Sir Edward, and several letters written by

his brother, a lawyer, who conducted the business for him, are included in the series. The repayment of the loan was guaranteed by a bond dated August 20, 1641, and bearing the signatures of Sir Edward, his mother, and sister; and though the agreement between the contracting parties was but for one year, Mr. Chetham does not seem to have thought of enforcing his claim for repayment until after the expiration of several years, satisfied probably with the nature of his security and the rate of interest promised (eight per cent. per ann.) for the accommodation. After a long correspondence with Mrs. and Miss Mosley, Sir Edward's sureties, to whom recourse was first had by Mr. Chetham in the belief that they would be able to influence Sir Edward in making the restitution sought for, an action was commenced in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, and judgment obtained against Sir Edward in Trinity Term 1649. At this time Mr. Chetham's claim stood as follows: —

The principall lent 24 ^o August 1641.....	2000 00 00
Interest for 2000 ^{li} from 24 ^o August 1641 to	
14 ^o Martij 1649, being 8 yeares 6	
monthes and $\frac{1}{2}$ at 160 ^{li} p ann. w ^{ch} is	
13 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d p mensem, amounts to.....	1366 13 04
Charges of suit.....	0061 05 00
	<hr/>
	3427 17 04
Whereof rec ^d December 1648	600 00 00
	<hr/>
Soc remaines 14 ^o Martij 1649 ...	2827 18 04
	<hr/>

On the award being made, Sir Edward consented to a mortgage of his Leicestershire estate as a means of satisfying Mr. Chetham's claim. It was proposed moreover to make the estate available for the liquidation of a like claim on the part of Mr. Allestrye, Sir Edward stipulating for a power of redemption within ten years, which was acceded to. Difficulties however arose in the legal bearings of the question, and after the negotiation had advanced

to some length, Mr. Chetham, having obtained counsel's opinion, declined to proceed further, and sought the repayment of his money from some other less debateable source. What that source was cannot now be ascertained, as the protracted correspondence on the subject between Mr. Chetham and Mr. Allestrye here ceases. The first letter is without date and is from Mrs. Anne Mosley, the mother of Sir Edward, addressed "For the right worshipfulle and my verie good friend Mr. Chittame at Cleaton p'sent this."

Sr,

I have found you sooe kinde to me and mine that it dothe imbouldins me to intrete you in my soones be halfe. My soon, not abill to give you suche content as was fiting he should, was a shamed to com to you; not nowe I trowe his foule bisnis was herd this desenit [day se'nnight] and I thank God welended, [well ended] for him. Divers of his frendes and contremen was at the hering of it. Thowe the mater was nout¹ yet it was not sooe ill as she pretended it was. I pre God blese him forth of shouche compeney as she is. I hope it will be a warning to him hereafter to medill withe suche as she is. My desire is that you will plese not to put your bound [bond] in sute at this terme. He will dowe his in dever to give you content; the latered of his composicion nowe is to be pede this terme, and that being doon I hope he will give satisfacktion, whiche shale be the desire of her that is your hombil frend.

ANNE MOSLEY.

The next letter is written by Anne Mosley, the sister of Sir Edward, and daughter of the above Anne Mosley. It is dated "Houghend, this 4th of June, 1645," and is addressed "To the right woorp¹ Humphery Cheatham Esquire at his house, Cleaton, these present."

¹ A Lancashire word signifying bad, discreditable.

Good Sr,

I am very sorrey that way wee have hearetofore discourst of will not give you content, for I am confident, and have had the opinion of verey good laweyrs, that you might have had a good assurance of it that way, and it would have added much to my content to have seene you sertine of that which would have brought you your monyes in good tyme in these uncertine dayes, which I pray God to amend, and then I doubt not but wee shall bee able to performe with all; but for haveing to doe this way which you mention in your letter I cannot concent to. But if there bee any other way you shall thinke of, I shall bee redy to give you the best satisfaction I can; and soe with my service to you I take leave, and remayne

Your honoring freind and servant,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Sr,

I am sorry you should doubte of mee that I would not ether have returned you your pledge or security to your minde, for I assure you I mene nothing but iustly.—My mother presents her love to you.

From the same to the same.

Worthy Sr,

I thanke you for yo^r last paynes and kyndnesse and for that greate favor you were then pleased to affoord me in yo^r patient forbearance of my brother's debt, wherein I was then in good hope you would have received satisfac^on before this tyme. I understand my brother hath bene lately wth you, and I feare hath bene more free in his promises then in p^rformance. I beseech you give me leave (beinge imboldened by yo^r former curtesies) once more to become an earnest suito^r to you for a little further forbearance, w^{ch} (God willinge) shall not be in any wise preiudiciall unto you. I am uppon Monday next for my journey to London, where I intend to make a finall conclusion for my owne

businesse wth S^r Samuëll Sleigh concerninge the money he is to pay me, and shall lykewise (I hope) putt an end to some thinge betweene my brother and me, and att my returne from London, which I feare will be neere Midsomer (if my brother in the meane tyme satisfye you not) my mother and my selfe will assuredly (if God blesse us wth lyfe) passe over unto you o^r intereste in the Leicestershire landes, w^{ch} wee are nowe ascerteyned from a freind in Leicester are of the fully yearlie value of seaven hundred poundes or neare thereaboutes. This shall be my last request unto you in this businesse, w^{ch} if I may obteyne shall be added to my former ingagem^{tes}. Thus for the p^rformance of what I have here undertaken you shall have that w^{ch} I shall ever tenderly p^rserve, viz^t the wordes and promise of

Your much obliged freind and servant,

ANNE MOSLEY.

The enclosed note conteyneth the rent of Beamond

Leas alone, besydes w^{ch} wee have in o^r security

Glenfeild manno^r and Jelly rowe, w^{ch} will make up the yearlie some I men^con in my bre.

This letter is addressed "To my much honord freind Humfrey Chetham Esq. att Turton theise present;" and is endorsed by him, "Mrs. Anne Mosley bre rec^d 25 Apr. 1648."

From the same to the same.

S^r,

I cannot but acknowledge yo^r greate respect in yo^r longe and patient forbearance, w^{ch} I hope in the conclusion will be in noe wise preiudiciall to you. I am newly come from London, and soe soone as I have a little rested my selfe I intend to come to Houghe End, and then to wayt uppon you and to give you the best satisfac^con I maye; onely I desire (if it may be) that my brother might discharge it himselfe as he hath promised, and as Mr. Allestrye affirmed his inten^con really was to pay you a good some before Bartholemewtyde; but if that fayle I shall not re-

cede from any thinge I have formerly promised to you, whereof be pleased to rest assured. From,

Sr, your much obliged freind and servant,
Sutton, 6th Junii, 1648. ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To my much hono^rd freind Humfrey Cheatham Esquire att Cleyton theise present."

The next letter in the series is signed by the mother and sister of Sir Edward, and, like the preceding letters, entreats the continued forbearance of Mr. Chetham.

Sr,

After yo^r longe and extraordinary patience, if you will be pleased to add a further forbearance of putting o^r bond in suite till Michaellmas next, and that in the meane tyme you receive not such satisfac^{co}n as you shall lyke of from the principall, wee will assuredly att that tyme either convey unto you o^r estate in the Leicestershire landes or otherwise satisfye you accordinge as you shall desire. And for yo^r better assurance hereof wee subscribe o^r selves

Yo^r very lovinge and much obliged freindes,

ANNE MOSLEY.

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To o^r much hon^rd freind Humfrey Chetham Esq^r. att Cleayton theise present;" endorsed by him, "Mrs. Mosley and her daughter Mrs. Anne, June 15, 1648."

From Mr. William Allestrye to Miss Anne Mosley.

M^{rs} Mosley,

Haveing imparted yo^r letter to yo^r brother hee is very sorrye you should bee put to any troble concerneinge his occasions. Wee intended this sūmer to have beene in Lancashire and to have made an end wth Mr. Cheetam before now, but the troubles in those p^tes p^rvented us. Yo^r brother desires to knowe from Mr. Cheetam what hee expects from him for interest for the time past; hee hopes hee will deale well with him therein. However hee is

resolved to referr it to him, and yf hee doe not pay Mr. Cheetam both principall and interest be fore Christmas next, or att least make paymt of one halfe and such securitye as hee shall like of for the other halfe, he is contented yo^u should assigne yo^r estate in Beamont Leas to him for his security; but yf Mr. Cheetam will lett him knowe his utmost demand both for principall and interest and when hee expects paymt, hee is resolved be fore Christmas to give him satisfac^on; and in regard p'sent sale may bee losse to yo^r brother, hee hopes upon satisfac^on given to Mr. Cheetam yo^u will assigne over yo^r estate to whome yo^r brother ap-
poynts. This is all wee shall now troble yo^u wth, onely desire a speedy answer from Mr. Cheetam, to whome there is nothinge intended but iust dealeinge from

Yo^r true freind and ready servant,

Derby, 5 Octobr, 1648.

WILLM. ALLESTRYE.

I fully agree to this letter,

EDW. MOSLEY.

From Humphrey Chetham Esq. to Miss Anne Mosley.

M^{ris} Mosley,

My tender respect to your reputa^on especialie and your ffreinds bound wth you, have caused mee att your request agayne and agayne, ffrom yeare to yeare and from tearme to tearme, to fforbeare my great so^me of mony w^{ch} should longe since have beene p^d me, and wherin I have undergonne great hasard these troublesome tymes, wherin I did not doubt but my courtesie would have beene answered wth more correspondent respect ffrom you, and especialie that whereas by your last importunetie you ingaged your selfe wth your mother, under both your hands, that yf I would but fforbeare untill Micklemas now past, I should wthout ffayle have satisfaxi^o, w^{ch}, although I have continued my patience even to the outemost of your desier, yet I ffynd noe p'fformance ffrom you. Once agayne therffore I shall beseech you that you will give mee noe longer cause to suspect your truth and good meaning towards mee, but doe that w^{ch} both the lawe of

God and man requires ffrom you, and w^{ch} you may doe w^{thout} p'iudice or detrement to your selfe when you please, and soe I shall ever rest

Your ffaythful ffreind and servant,

Octobr 6th, 1648.

HUMFREY CHETHAM.

From Miss Anne Mosley to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

Worthy Sr,

I am not unmyndfull of yo^r longe forbearance from tyme to tyme nor of my ingagement to you under my hand. I have earnestly endeavoured yo^r satisfac^{on} from my brother by applying my selfe to his counsell, from whome I received the inclosed, to w^{ch} I intreate yo^r present answere to soe much as p'ticularly concernes yo^r selfe, w^{ch} I shall speed to my brother and returne you his answere. I acknowledge yo^r greate respectes, and shall (God willinge) soe tenderly preserve my reputa^{on} in the right p'formance of what I have promised that you shall have noe cause of complaint against me; yet I desire, soe farre as iustly I may, to p'forme that sisterly respect that befitte to a brother w^{thout} preiudice to you, or any intention, the least tittle, to recede from what I have undertaken to you, unlesse by yo^r owne cōsent. And soe be pleased, good Sr, to understand me, and to beleeve that I am

Sr, your verey much obliged freind and servant,

Sutton, 7^o Octobr, 1648.

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "ffor my truly honord ffreind Humfrey Chetham Esq^r att Cleyton theise."

This was followed by letters excusing further delay, dated respectively October 16, 23, and 30, all written by Miss Mosley. On the 3rd of November she again addresses Mr. Chetham, expressing a hope that an interview which had recently taken place between him and her brother had been attended with satisfactory results; and after this an interval of two months elapses before the correspondence is resumed.

From Mr. Allestrye to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

S^r,

Yesterday I received two letters from you, yet by sev'all hands. I did about a week since writ to you w^{ch} I hope by this tyme you have received. By yo^r last I presume you are willing to let S^r Edward have the power of redemp^con himself, so he allowe yo^r w^{ch} my brother is likewise content to doe. As yet I have not spoken wth S^r Edw. Moseley, but I purpose uppō Saturday to ride over to lime, and yf I find him to deale cleverely wth me and deliv' me his ancient evidences and conclude wth me how the £8,000 shall be paid, then I will forth wth drawe the afr. . . . and send them to you. However you shall by the next und^rstand what end wee make. Soe wth my best respects presente unto you I rest

Yo^r very loving freind and ready servant,

Derby, 3 January.

WILLM. ALLESTRYE.

Addressed To his "much honoured freind Humphry Chetham Esq. at his house at Cleyton these;" endorsed "M^r Allestree, 3^o Jan. 1649."

From Mrs. Anne Mosley to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

S^r,

I and my douter Anne have allwes found you sooe fafrabill to hous since wee were com to be bound to you in the grete soom of mone for my sone, and nowe he is wiling to give you foule satisfacktion for all that is past and acording to the a griment at London of your selfe or by your selister and Mr. Allastre. It was a gride that you and Mr. Allastre should have an absolute bargin of Lestersher land, and then you and Mr. Allastre was contented to selle a dafasanes [?] to my soon, that when your moneye was pede to you withe in suche a time as it was a gride on at London, my sone was to enter on his land a gene. My desire is, that as you have bine kind to hous at all times that you will be plesed to show hous sooe much kindnes to conferme the agriment allrede

concluded on; in soe doing you shall oblige hous to pre for your hapenes. And soe I rest

Your faithful frend,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To my honoured frend Humphrey Cheetom Esq^r at his house at Cleton these p'sent."

From the same to the same.

S^r,

I did here that my sone sent oup Mr. Brogrefe [? Borough-reeve] to conclude of the agriment betwixt him selfe and you and Mr. Allestrey. I thinke my coson Nikolas Mosley of the Colihorst was on for my sone, and I am a shoured he was on at the agrement that was a gride on at London. I could have wised withe all my harte that my soon hade bine as wiling to have a gride to you at ferst as nowe he is willing to have a ende made on it. My coson Nikolas tould me that he would com to you this wike to tolke withe you a bout this bisnis, and ether this wike or the be gining of the next wik he ment to gooe to Mr. Alestrey to speke withe him a bout this bisnises truly. I herde of seven pounde in the hondred that the wer a gride on at London, but to demand eite pound in the hondred more then was a gride on it is nowe Mr. Alestray dowing and not yours. Howe ever I hope my sone will give you content if it liece in his poure. I can give no absolut answer for my sone, but I will send to my coson Nikolas Mosley to see if hee will gooe to speke to my soone and Mr. Allastrye, whiche I hope he will dowe, and if he will not I will send on to them my selfe, thowe I knowe non is sooe fit to gooe as he is. I hope he will dowe sooe that all thes bisnisis mite be endes. Thus withe my servis I rest

Your obliged frend,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To the writ worshipfoule my honered frend houn-frey Chitom esquire present this;" endorsed "M^{rs} Moseley, Jan^{ry} 1649."

From Humphrey Chetham Esq. to Mr. Allestrye.

Sr,

I writt to yo^u about three weekes since in answer of yo^r fre sent mee frō London, to signify unto yo^u my aprobaçon of yo^r propositions touching y^e purchase of y^e Leicester shire landes. I inclosed also a copy of y^e lease according to yo^r desire, and haveing rec^d noe answer frō yo^u in a fortnightes time, about a weeke agoe I sent yo^u a copy of my form^r lest the former should miscarried. I doubt not but either my first fre or the late copy of it, or both, are or will shortly come unto you, to which I desire some speedy answer, yt if there bee any stop in y^e accomplishm^t of those p^rtences and offers made by Sr Edward or his freinds for giving satisfacçon of my debt by sale of the landes I may not bee delayed upon such expectaçons from takeing my remedy y^e best way I can. I have little to adde to what I have formerly written, but onely this, that I p^rceive Sr Edw. hath writt to his mother that hee desires a power of redempçon for himselfe: his mother also desires the same. Now if wee have the rentes duely paid to us in the meane time, and that both hee and his childe freinds are more willing and thinke it safer to have it soe, I cannot see any more inconvenience to us tō leave y^e redempçon in him paying 8^{li} p cent, then if his sonne have it at 7^{li}. Howsoever I gave an absolute deniall to leave Sr Edward any such power, because I knew not how you might approve of it, by whom I must bee very much guided in this busines, inasmuch as you are able in divers respectes to foresee many advantages or inconveniences which I cannot; soe that I am resolved not to make any promises or agreem^{ts} before I understand yo^r opinion thereof. Soe with y^e reñbr of my due respectes I rest, &c.

Endorsed, "L^re to Mr Allestre, Jan. 13^o 1649."

The result of this correspondence, as already stated, was an action brought by Mr. Chetham against Sir Edward for the recovery of his debt, in which a verdict was given in the plaintiff's favour.

Sir Edward Mosley was succeeded by his son Edward, the second baronet of the name, then in his minority, but who in 1661, having by that time reached full age, was returned to Parliament as M.P. for St. Michael's, in the county of Cornwall. This representative of the family purchased the Hulme estate from the Prestwich family, and obtained an act of Parliament confirming the sale in 1661. He married Katharine, daughter of William Lord Grey of Wark, and dying without issue in 1665 brought to a close the male line in direct descent from Sir Nicholas Mosley the lord mayor of London.

His will is dated December 18, 1660, wherein he describes himself as of Rolleston, in the county of Stafford, baronet. He commends his soul to God, and desires that his body may be decently buried in Didsbury Church, willing his funeral expenses "to bee moderate, not exceedinge eight hundred pounds nor less than 400^{li}." He gives to Anne Mosley, his grandmother, the several lands &c. called The Roger Fields, The Woodhends, The Great Bent, The Little Bent, The Edmund Acre, The Mosley Meadow, The Great and Little Priest Field, and all the boones and services (other than the rents) reserved or payable out of his lands or tenements, parcel of the manor of Heaton Norris, for her natural life. To his aunt Mosley he gives for her life the five Park Fields, the farm called the Turve Mosse, all his lands in Chorlton, and all that capital messuage called The Hough End, now in the occupation of his grandmother, being her jointure. To his cousin Nicholas Mosley of Ancoats and his heirs he gives all his lands, tenements &c. in the county of Derby; all his lands, tenements, mill and coalpits in Kersley, in the county of Lancaster; all his lands and tenements which were conveyed to him by his said grandmother, lying in the county of Chester; all that his farm in Staffordshire, called The Barley Fields; and all his lands in Newton Lane, in the county of Lancaster. To his cousin Anthony Mosley, citizen of London, he gives for his life all that his farm, called Tudbury Woodhouse, in the county of Stafford; and after his decease he gives the same to his (testator's) cousin Anthony

Mosley, grandchild to the aforesaid Anthony, and the heirs male of his body. To his cousin Anne Mosley of Collyhurst he gives all that his farm and lands and mill now in her tenure and occupation in Collyhurst; to have and to hold the same for a term of thirty-one years, to commence after the determination of a lease thereof made by Sir Edward Mosley, his father, to Mr. Francis Mosley, her grandfather. To Mr. John Aleyn of Gray's Inn — [here follows an erasure of eight lines in the will, and a marginal note dated August 10, 1663, "upon the death of Mr. Aleyn I have cancelled the gift of the land I intended to have given him."] He gives to Richard Crowder and his heirs all that his tenement in Davyhulme now in the tenure or occupation of the widow Faulkner, and also those three several tenements heretofore let to him the said Richard Crowther for two lives, lying in Manchester aforesaid; to hold the same for a term of thirty-one years. To John Bate and his heirs he gives the tenement in Davyhulme now in the tenure of Thomas Rogers. To Mary Barlow, wife of John Barlow his servant, all that his tenement in Lowstock, called Ottwell's Tenement. He gives to his executors and their heirs all that his tenement in Davyhulme, now in the tenure of James Shaw, "in trust for the keepinge of a schoole and schoolemaster in Didsbury aforesaid, to be settled accordeinge to the discrecion of my executors." He gives to his executors his manors of Manchester, Hulme and Cheadle, in trust for the payment of his debts, legacies and funeral expenses, or so much of them as his personal estate shall not suffice to satisfy. All the rest of his lands, estate of inheritance in fee-simple, he gives to his sister Mary Mosley and her heirs for ever, directing that if his cousin Nicholas Mosley aforesaid, or his heirs, shall oppose or disturb the execution of this his (testator's) will, that then his devise made to the said Nicholas Mosley of the tenements and premises aforesaid shall be utterly void and of no effect. He constitutes as his executors his loving aunt Anne Mosley and Mr. John Aleyn of Gray's Inn; revoking all former wills and reserving power to himself by any codicil or codicils to make such other devises or bequests as to himself shall seem meet. Witnesses: Nicholas Burwell, Ri. Criche.

It seems certain that the provisions of the above abstracted will never took effect, although the document itself (or rather a transcript of it) has found a resting-place in the Bishop's Registry at Chester, as if duly proved. In the "Family Memoirs" of the Mosleys a later disposition of his property is said to have been made by the testator, the second will bearing date October 13, 1665, within a week of his death. By this will he directs that, in the event of his dying without male issue, all his manors, lordships, messuages, tenements and hereditaments should, after the expiration of the term of fifteen years, descend to his cousin Edward Mosley, son of Edward Mosley of Hulme Esq. and great grandson of Anthony Mosley of Ancoats Esq., the younger brother of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., and to his heirs male, and for want of such issue then to the said Edward Mosley Esq. and his heirs male, upon condition, nevertheless, that the same Edward Mosley the father, or his executors, shall within five years after his (testator's) decease, purchase with his own money, but to be reimbursed unto him or them with interest out of the profits, rents and issues of the said premises hereby by testator demised as aforesaid unto his said cousin Edward Mosley and his heirs (so soon as may be after the fifteen years ended and expired), so much land &c. within the realm of England as the purchase thereof will bonâ fide amount and come to £7,000, of and for a good estate in fee-simple in the names of himself and his (testator's) aunt Anne Mosley; and that they and their heirs shall within six months after such purchase settle, convey and assure the same to the use of the said Nicholas Mosley and his assigns for his life, and after his decease to the said Oswald Mosley and his heirs male, with other remainders over to all the other sons of the said Nicholas, and for want of such issue then to the use of the said Edward Mosley Esq., his heirs and assigns for ever. And in case his (testator's) cousin Edward Mosley Esq., his executors or administrators, shall fail or neglect in the purchase and settlement of the same lands, then the uses before herein limited of his (testator's) said own lands unto the said Edward Mosley the son and the heirs male of his

body, and to the said Edward Mosley the father and the heirs male of his body, shall cease, end and determine, and then and in that case, or in case of the performance of the said condition, and that the said Edward, son of the said Edward Mosley Esq., and the said Edward Mosley Esq., shall both of them die without male issue, then he bequeaths all his aforesaid manors, lordships &c. (except before herein excepted) unto his said aunt Anne Mosley and his said cousin Edward Mosley Esq. and their heirs, to the intent and purposes and upon trust and confidence that the said Anne Mosley and Edward Mosley Esq., or their heirs, shall settle the reversions and remainders thereof upon such of the sons of the said Nicholas Mosley as they shall think most fit and most worthy and hopeful, and to the heirs male of his or their bodies, with other remainders over to such other persons of the name and blood of him the said Sir Edward Mosley and to the heirs male of their bodies, as to the said Anne Mosley and Edward Mosley Esq. and their heirs shall be thought fit, for it is his desire that his said lands and tenements &c. shall and may remain in his name and blood so long as it shall please God to permit the same.

Edward Mosley of Hulme, or, as he afterwards became, Sir Edward Mosley Knt., on whom the estates were by the latter will entailed, was the second son of Oswald Mosley of Anecoats Esq. and grandson of Anthony Mosley Esq. of the same place, the younger brother of Sir Nicholas. He was a barrister of some eminence, and was one of the commissioners for the administration of justice in Scotland, an office continued to him during the period of the Commonwealth. Scarcely had he taken possession when he was menaced on all sides by threats of legal proceedings on the part of claimants under both wills of the deceased baronet, threats which were speedily carried into execution. Mary Mosley, the testator's only sister, to whom the reversion of several valuable estates had been bequeathed under the first will, finding herself altogether disinherited by the second, disputed through her husband, Joseph Maynard Esq., the validity of the later instrument. Another action was entered against him, as principal executor, by

the creditors of the late baronet to compel the payment of their several debts, whilst a third suit was commenced in chancery by his brother Nicholas to enforce the performance of that part of the will which had relation to himself and the provision designed for him by the testator. At length, after much contention, terms were agreed upon and a partition of the estates took place, contemplated by neither of the disputed documents. The Leicestershire property, consisting of the manor of Glenfield and lands in Kirkby Anstey and Thurecaston passed to Joseph Maynard Esq. in right of his wife Mary. The reversion of the Staffordshire estates, after the death of Lady North (widow of the testator), who held them in jointure, were secured to Oswald Mosley Esq., eldest son of Nicholas Mosley of Ancoats, deceased, in lieu of the £7,000 to be invested in land for his benefit; the manor of Manchester also to be left to him and his heirs by the will of his uncle Edward, subject to a life interest in favour of his (Edward's) daughter Ann, the wife of Sir John Bland Bart., in case he should die without males issue; whilst the rest of the property, consisting of Bread-sall Park or Priory in the county of Derby, of Hulme Hall and manor, Hough or Hough End Hall and all the lands in Didsbury, Withington, Heaton Norris and Chorlton, in the county of Lancaster, and Cheadle Mosley near Stockport in the county of Chester, were still to remain at the free disposal of Sir Edward Mosley.¹

Sir Edward Mosley Knt. married Jane Meriel, daughter of Richard Saltonstall of Huntwick in the county of York Gent., who survived him. In 1689 he was knighted by William III. at Whitehall. He died in 1695, leaving an only daughter and heiress (his three sons, Nicholas, Edward and Francis having preceded him to the tomb) Anne, wife of Sir John Bland of Kippax in the county of York Bart. He was buried at Didsbury. In his will, dated May 24, 1695, he is described as Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme Knight. He resigns his soul with all humility and thankfulness to God, his Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and his body to the grave, to be privately interred without all unnecessary charge. He gives, devises and bequeaths the manors of Withington and

¹ *Family Memoirs*, by Sir Oswald Mosley Bart., p. 29.

Heaton Norris, with all the lands &c. to the same belonging (except such parts thereof as were settled at the marriage of his daughter with Sir John Bland, and except one tenement therein, called Burche's Tenement, at the Moss-side, which he gives to his sister Mosley of the Ancoats and to her heirs for ever), to his son-in-law Sir John Bland and to his daughter the Lady Bland during their lives and the life of the survivor of them; and after the death of his said daughter and son-in-law Sir John Bland, he gives and devises the same to the first, second and other sons of the said Sir John Bland and the said Lady Bland successively and to the heirs male of the body of such sons successively, and for want of such issue, and also as to all the rest of the lands &c. settled on the said Sir John Bland and the said Lady Bland and their sons successively at the time of their marriage, to the sons of his (testator's) said daughter the Lady Bland begotten by any other husband successively and to their heirs male; with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley of the Ancoats Esq. and his heirs for ever, chargeable, notwithstanding, with a clear yearly rent of £150, to be paid to his (testator's) wife out of the rents and profits of the said lands &c., to be paid to her by half yearly payments at Michaelmas and Lady Day. And further, that the sum of four pounds per annum shall be yearly paid out of the rents and profits of the same unto the churchwardens of the church of Didsbury for the use of the poor of Withington and Heaton Norris aforesaid, to be paid yearly until some lands of the like value shall be settled upon them for ever. And his further will and mind is, that the said manors of Withington and Heaton Norris shall be in lieu and satisfaction of all covenants and engagements made in the settlement made at his said daughter's marriage; and his further will and mind is, that if his said daughter the Lady Bland die without issue male, so that the said estate come into the hands of his said nephew Oswald Mosley or his heirs, that then the said estate shall remain and be chargeable with the payment of £5,000 unto or for the use of the daughter or daughters of the said Lady Bland as they shall be living at the time of Lady Bland's decease. Also, he gives his two tenements at or near Bury in Lancashire afore-

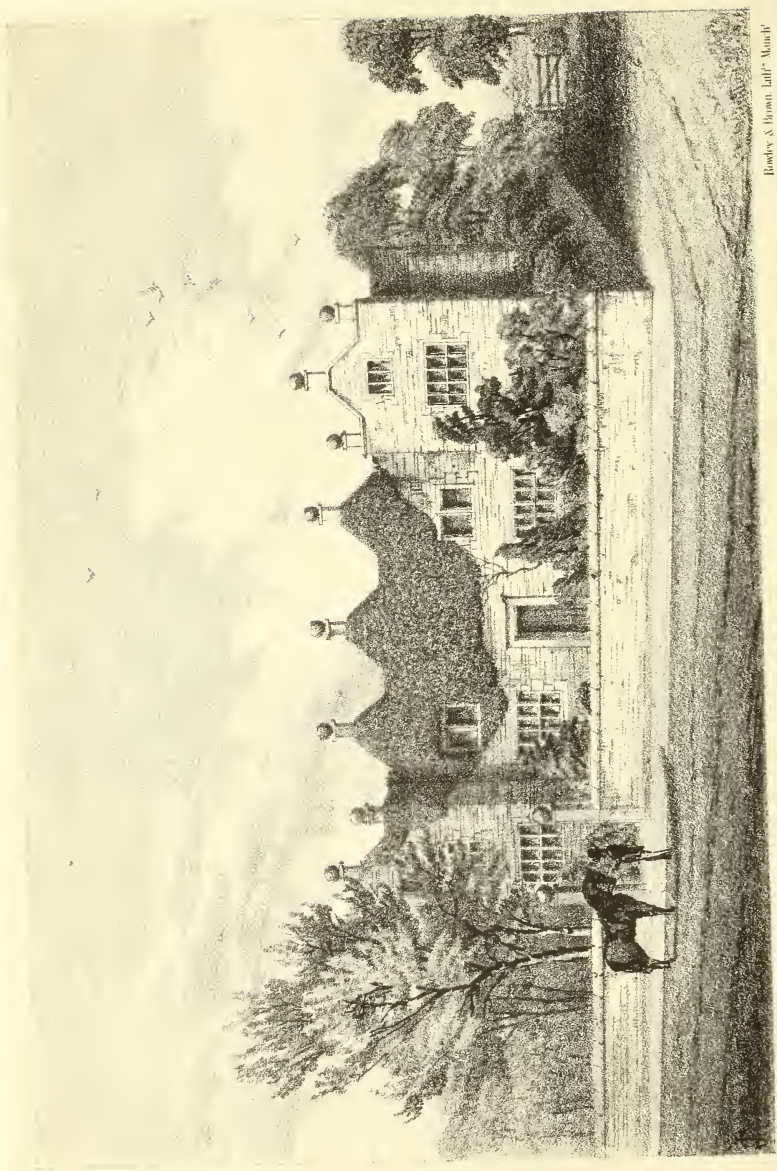
said to his son-in-law Sir John Bland and his heirs for ever in lieu and satisfaction of one tenement in Withington, which he (testator) sold to William Alcock; and his desire is that his said son-in-law Sir John Bland will not alter or question that deed or any other deed, lease, contract or agreement which he (testator) has made with his tenants or others, but will confirm the same. Also, he gives the manor of Hulme in the county of Lancaster, together with one field adjoining thereunto called the Lower Lodge Ground, to his dear and loving wife during her life, which with what he has before given and devised unto her is in lieu and satisfaction of her dower; and after the death of his said wife he gives and devises the same to his said daughter the Lady Bland, with remainder as before to her sons in succession, with remainder to his (testator's) nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever. Also, he gives and bequeaths that tenement in Cheadle in the county of Chester, now or late in the possession of Mr. Kelsall, to his brother Francis Mosley and his heirs male. Also, he gives the manor of Cheadle in the county of Chester aforesaid, except the said tenement called Kelsall's Tenement, to his said daughter the Lady Bland, with remainder as before to her sons in succession, with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever. Also, he gives the manor of Manchester in the county of Lancaster, and all other his messuages, lands, tenements, &c., not before herein disposed of, except the said field called the Lower Lodge Ground, to his said daughter during her life, with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever,—upon this condition, nevertheless, that what he (testator) has before hereby given and bequeathed to his said nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs is only given upon this condition, that if the said Oswald Mosley, his heirs or assigns shall any way disturb, hinder or oppose this settlement by will, or any part thereof, or shall lay claim to any part of the said manors, lands, &c., otherwise than as is hereby limited, appointed and settled upon his said nephew Oswald Mosley, that then, and in that case, his will is, that all the estates to him the said Oswald Mosley and his heirs before hereby bequeathed shall be void and cease and determine, and that the same shall remain and come to his (tes-

tator's) said daughter the Lady Bland and to her heirs for ever. Also, he gives and bequeaths three pounds per annum, to be paid yearly for twenty-one years, unto the preacher at Didsbury that shall be there by consent of the lord of the manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, to be paid by the said lord for the time being out of the rents and profits of the said lordships. Also, he gives to his sister Case twenty pounds, and to Mr. Henry Newcome the elder twenty pounds. Also, he gives fifty pounds to be distributed amongst his domestic servants at the discretion of his executrix. He makes his loving wife his sole executrix, revoking all other wills formerly made. Witnesses: John Frankland, William Garnett, Nat. Corles.

The marriage of Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Mosley with Sir John Bland was solemnized in 1685 at Chorlton Chapel, and, notwithstanding the fair promise of happiness at first afforded, it proved most disastrous. Sir John gave early indications of a love of dissipation, and with the increased opportunities of indulgence furnished by his wife's ample fortune he threw off all restraint, and by his addiction to the gaming-table reduced himself to the verge of ruin. He was chosen representative of the borough of Appleby in Westmoreland, and afterwards sat for Pontefract in Yorkshire. He died in 1715, and was buried at Didsbury, where a monument was erected to his memory, conveying anything but a true estimate of his character. His widow long survived him, and made Hulme Hall her principal residence. On the 18th of May, 1709, she laid the foundation stone of St. Ann's Church, Manchester, which was so named in compliment to her; she was one of the chief contributors to the cost of its erection, and at its consecration, July 17, 1712, gave also a portion of the communion plate and the velvet covering for the communion table. She died in 1734, and was buried at Didsbury.

Her will is dated June 20, 1721, in which she describes herself as Dame Anne Bland of Hulme in the county of Lancaster, widow and relict of Sir John Bland, late of Kippax Park in the county of York, Bart. deceased. She commends her soul to Almighty God, hoping through the satisfaction and righteousness of Christ, her Redeemer,

to be made partaker of eternal happiness ; and her body she commits to the earth, to be decently buried at Didsbury as conveniently to her late dear husband Sir John Bland deceased as may be, at the discretion of her executor. And as for all her real and personal estate, she gives and bequeaths the same in manner and form following : First, she wills her just debts, funeral charges and expenses of probate to be paid and satisfied. She then recites certain articles of agreement, bearing date November 3, 1720, made between herself and her son-in-law Thomas Davison of Blakiston in the county of Durham Esq., wherein she promises to pay the said Thomas Davison the sum of one thousand pounds on the day of her death ; in pursuance of which covenant and agreement she hereby directs the payment of the aforesaid sum, declaring it to be in full satisfaction and discharge of and for all such covenants and agreements as she has entered into in the aforesaid articles. She gives and devises to her daughter Meriel Jacob her best pair of diamond ear-rings and also the sum of one hundred pounds. She charges her manor and lordship of Withington and all and every her messuages, lands, rents, &c. in Withington, and all other her manors, lands, &c. whatsoever and wheresoever, as well with the payment of all her debts, funeral charges and legacies, as with the payment of such debts of her late husband Sir John Bland as she stands obliged to pay ; which manors, lands, rents, &c. so charged she leaves to her son Sir John Bland of Kippax Park in the county of York Bart., to have and to hold the same so charged and chargeable as aforesaid to her said son Sir John Bland, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns for ever. She constitutes her said son Sir John Bland executor of this her will, and revokes all former wills. And further, it is her earnest request to her said son Sir John Bland, that in case of failure of issue of his body he would sometime in his lifetime, either by will or any other writing, convey and settle the said real estate or so much thereof as he shall stand seised of at the time of his decease, as that the same may come and be enjoyed by her said daughter Meriel Jacob and by the heirs of her body ; and for default of such issue, by her (testatrix) grandson Thomas Davison and the heirs of his body ; and for



Hugh & Lillie, by James Croston

Hough End,

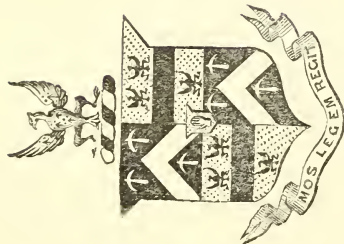
THE ANCIENT SEAT OF THE MOSLEYS

Rowley & Hunt, Litho. Manchester

default of such issue, that the same may come and be enjoyed by her cousin Francis Mosley of Rolleston in the county of Stafford, clerk, for and during the term of his natural life, and after his decease by the first son and all and every other son and sons of the body of her said cousin Francis Mosley begotten successively in tail male — the elder of such son and sons and the heirs males of his and their body and bodies being ever preferred before the younger and the heirs males of his and their body and bodies. In witness whereof, &c. Witnesses: G. Pigot, Jno. Greene, Wm. Broome.

Lady Anne Bland died, as has been already stated, in 1734, and was succeeded in the inheritance by her son Sir John Bland, who both bore his father's name and shared his father's vices. The provision made in the later clauses of her will for perpetuating the descent of the estates in her family was frustrated by the reckless extravagance of the new heir, who soon completed the ruin commenced by his father. Hulme manor passed in 1751 to George Lloyd of Manchester Esq., and the manor of Withington about the same time to the Egertons of Tatton, in whom it is at present vested.

Hough End, for several generations the residence of the Mosley family, was erected in the later years of the reign of Elizabeth, and, though always of modest proportions, may yet be considered a fair example of the style of domestic architecture of the period. At the present day, with its ivy-covered walls, its clustered chimneys and its gabled roof, it presents a picturesque and pleasing appearance. It is built entirely of stone, and comprises a centre with a bay at each end a little advanced from the main structure; the latter, of three stories, lighted by square-headed windows divided into lights by substantial stone mullions, and transomed, the upper structure gabled and ornamented with the usual ball ornament of the period. The centre is of two stories only, lighted by windows similar in character to those just described, and surmounted by a parapet forming a triplet gable. The entrance appears to have been originally by a gabled porch at the east end of the building, but this has since been built up and its place supplied by a doorway penetrating the south front. It is now occupied as a farm-house.



Mosley of Hough End.

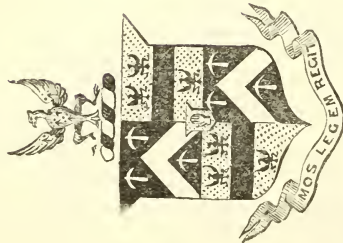
Jenkyn Mosley of Withington Gent. =
temp. Edw. IV.

James Mosley of Withington, at. 21 =
6 Hen. VII.

Edward Mosley = Margaret, dau. of Alexander Elecock
died 1571. of the Hill-gate in Stockport Gent.

<p>Elizabeth, dau. of ² Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., = Margaret, dau. of ¹ Hugh Whitbroke of Bridge-north Gent.</p> <p>John Rookes Gent. purchased the manor of Manchester 1596; Lord Mayor of London 1599; ob. 1612, at. 85; will dat. 12 Nov. 10 Jas. I.; bur. at Didsbury May 27, 1617; will proved at Chester 1617.</p>	<p>Anthony Mosley of Ancoats.</p> <p>Oswald, = died before his father.</p> <p>Rowland, = died before his father.</p> <p>Sammel Mosley succeeded his father, but sold the estate and went to Ireland.</p> <p>Francis =</p> <p>Mary, mar. John Vaudrey of Ryding co. Chester Gent.</p>	<p>² Margaret, wife of William Prestley of London.</p> <p>¹ Cicely, dau. of Richard Tipping of Manchester Gent.</p> <p>Francis = Ellen, dau. of James Lancashire; mar. at Didsbury in 1643.</p> <p>Thomas Mosley, Lord Mayor of York 1687.</p> <p>Rowland, = Jane, dau. of Charles Sheriff of Rickard of Heck Esq. York 1702.</p> <p>Issue.</p>
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<p>Anne, dau. of Hum. = Rowland Mosley = Anne, dau. of Francis phrey Houghton of Manchester. Gent.; Sheriff of Lancashire 1616; bur. at Didsbury March 11, 1616-17.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Margaret, = William Whitmore dau. and heiress, at Didsbury May 21, 1607.</p>	<p>John Mosley, bur. Feb. 8, 1592-94.</p>	<p>Sir Edward Mosley Bart., = Katharine, dau. of William Lord died Oct. 14, and bur. at Didsbury Oct. 21, 1665, s.p.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Anthony Mosley; mar. sister of Sir William Hewett Knt.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury March 26, 1592; bur. there July 26, 1610.</p>
<p>Sutton Esq. and sister and coheir of Richard Sutton of Sutton co. Chester Esq.; mar. at Coll. Ch. Manchester Dec. 15, 1613; bur. at Didsbury March 5, 1661-62.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Sir Edward Mosley Knt.; Attorney General of the Duchy of Lancaster; bapt. at Didsbury Oct. 17, 1569; he had acquired by purchase, and died there in 1638.</p>	<p>Sir Edward Mosley Bart., = Maria, dau. of Sir Gervase Cutler bapt. at Didsbury Sept. 1616; created a Baronet 20 July, 1640; Sheriff of the county of Stafford 1642; bur. at Didsbury Dec. 4, 1657.</p>	<p>Anne, liv. 1656; died unmarried.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Nicholas Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury Oct. 19, 1568.</p>	<p>Alexander Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury Jan. 26, 1587.</p>
<p>Sir Edward Mosley Bart., = Maria, dau. of Sir Gervase Cutler bapt. at Didsbury Sept. 1616; created a Baronet 20 July, 1640; Sheriff of the county of Stafford 1642; bur. at Didsbury Dec. 4, 1657.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Sir Edward Mosley Knt.; Attorney General of the Duchy of Lancaster; bapt. at Didsbury Oct. 17, 1569; he had acquired by purchase, and died there in 1638.</p>	<p>Anne, liv. 1656; died unmarried.</p>	<p>Mary, = Joseph Maynard of Ealing, co. Middlesex Esq.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury March 26, 1592; bur. there July 26, 1610.</p>	<p>Alexander Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury Jan. 26, 1587.</p>



Mosley of Buline.

Edward Mosley—Margaret, dau. of
of Hough End; Alexander Plcock
died 1571. of Stockport Gent.

Sir Nicholas Mosley
Knt.

Anthony Mosley, third son, = Alice, dau. of Richard = John Cudworth of Wor-
of Ancoats, which estate he Webster of Manchester; noth; mar. at Coll. Ch. May 3, 1613.
acquired by purchase from bur. at Coll. Ch. March 13, 1640-1.
Sir John Byron Knt.; will dat. Nov. 14, 1606; died March 25; bur. at Coll. Ch. March 27, 1607, at 70.

Nicholas, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Jan. 17, 1584-5, and bur. there Feb. 8, 1585-6.
Nicholas, bapt. Aug. 7, 1588, and bur. Jan. 11, 1588-9.
Anthony, bapt. Aug. 15, 1591, and bur. Aug. 26, 1598.
Margaret, bapt. July 31, and bur. Sept. 10, 1594.

2 Francis, of Manchester, clothier; bapt. Jan. 23, 1555-6; afterwards of Collyhurst; bur. at Coll. Ch. Oct. 14, 1662.
3 Edward, bapt. July 18, 1596; mar. and had 2 daughters, who died young. He died 1617.
4 Richard, of Manchester, clothier; bapt. Aug. 10, 1597; will dat. Feb. 3, 1627-8; bur. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 7, 1627-8, unmarried.

Oswald Mosley, of Ancoats; bapt. at Coll. Ch. April 26, 1583; bur. there Nov. 11, 1630, at 47. (Brass in Coll. Ch. Manchester.)
= Anne, dau. and coheir of Ralph Loeve of Mile End, co. Chester; bur. at Coll. Ch. June 21, 1671.

Walter Nugent = Ellen, = Henry Sewell
of Manchester; bapt. July 9, mar. lic. dat. 1587. Dec. 1615
mar. at Coll. Ch. Nov. 13, 1606; and bur. there March 10, 1613-14.

Alice, bapt. Jan. 1, 1592-3; = John Cudworth of worth of mar. lic. dat. Sept. 4, 1611. Werneth
Anne, liv. Feb. 3, 1627-8, unmarried.
Elizabeth, bapt. July 20, 1595; bur. Dec. 8, 1602.

Rowland Mosley, = Jane, dau. of and widow of Anthony Brown of Marsh, co. Derby, Gent.

<p>Nicholas Mosley = Jane, dau. of John Mosley Knt. and of Richard of Hulme; bapt. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 26, 1611, and bur. there Oct. 28, 1672. Ancestor of Sir Oswald Mosley Bart. now living in 1856.</p>	<p>Sir Edward = Jane Meriel, dau. of Richard of Hulme; bapt. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 6, 1618; bur. at Didsbury 31 July, 1695.</p>	<p>3 Oswald Mosley, bapt. Aug. 23, 1625; mar. (1) Anne, dau. of William Lever of Kersall Gent. and had 2 daughters; and (2) Elizabeth, dau. of John Lightbourne Esq., whose issue died young. He ob. 1653, with male issue.</p> <p>4 Samuel, bapt. May 11, 1628. Settled in Ireland, where he married. Died in 1673 without issue.</p>	<p>5 Francis Mosley = Katharine, dau. of John Davernport of Wiltshire. He died 1689.</p>	<p>Anne, bapt. 1668-9; mar. (?) Robert Booth of Salford Esq.; and (2) Rev. Thomas Case. Margaret, bapt. Nov. 1616; mar. Rev. John Anger of Denton. Mary, bapt. Dec. 26, 1620; mar. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 18, 1647-8. George Crowther of London.</p>
<p>Anne, dau. and heiress = Sir John Bland Bart. of bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 28, 1664; died July 26, 1685; bur. at Didsbury and bur. Aug. 3, 1734, Oct. 29, 1715.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 18, 1668; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 8, 1688.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 18, 1668; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 8, 1688.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Hulme Sept. 8; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 10, 1677.</p>	<p>Anne, wife of Richard Whitworth of Adas-ton, co. Stafford, Esq. Katharine, wife of John Hooper of Manches-ter, merchant. Elizabeth, unmarried.</p>

TOWNSHIP OF BURNAGE.

This small township lies five miles south-south-east from Manchester, and includes the hamlets of Green End and Lady Barn, the former probably deriving its name from its verdure as contrasted with the surrounding neighbourhood, and the latter of uncertain derivation, said to take its name from the erection of a barn or grange by Lady Anne Bland, but in reality so designated as early as 1638, in which year John and Thomas Shalcross of Ladie Barn pledge themselves to the payment of £2 3s. due to the minister of Didsbury, and even earlier, in the will of Sir Nicholas Mosley dated 1612.

Burnage is bounded on the north by Withington, Rusholme and Levenshulme; on the south by Didsbury and Heaton Norris; on the east by Heaton Norris; and on the west by Withington. Its area, according to Rickman's computation in the Census Returns of 1831, is 610 acres; according to the Tithe Commissioners in their return of 1851, 658 acres; the Ordnance Survey makes it 666a. Or. 29p.; and Messrs. Johnson 677 acres. Its name is anciently written Brownegge, Brownage, Browndedge, Bromwich and Bromage,—and its etymology is a disputable point; *Bran*, *braun*, *brun*, *bour*n signifying a rivulet or stream, and also a boundary or limit:—*Brin*, *brind*, *brand*, *bur*, *burn* from *brennen* (German) or *Bernan* (Saxon) signifies also to burn,—hence the word *brand*, a piece of burning wood. The latter syllable in the word signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a brink, margin or extremity.

In the extent or survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322), it is stated that “in Brownegge there are 356 acres of pasture in common for the tenants of Heton [Norris] and Withington; nevertheless the lord may appropriate to himself 136 acres of pasture there, worth thirty-four shillings, at three pence per acre, besides a sufficiency of pasture for those commons which

John de Biron, John de Langford and John de Langton have cultivated and enclosed." This acreage, Lancashire measure as no doubt it was, would include nearly the whole township, for the Ordnance Survey reduced from statute to Lancashire measure, gives but a total area of 411 acres for Burnage. There was a dole-field in the township, called Barcicroft or Bassy-croft, that is, the rushy enclosure about thirty Lancashire acres in extent; it was known by that name as early as the year 1590. By a deed amongst the Trafford evidences, undated, but executed in the reign of Edward III., John De la Warre lord of Manchester and Joane his wife convey to Thomas son of Henry de Trafford one hundred acres of moor and pasture land in Heaton and Withington,—to wit that half of the tract called Brownege lying nearest to Heaton, the which half remained to the said John and Joane after a certain partition of the whole tract made between them and Richard de Longeford, — To have and to hold the same on payment of seventy shillings per annum. And if it should happen that the aforesaid Thomas die without heirs male then with remainder to Nicholas son of the said Thomas, and to his brothers Edward and Thomas in succession, with further remainder to the said John De la Warre and Joane his wife and their heirs. The deed further states that the said hundred acres of moor and pasture, together with twenty acres of other land, were conveyed to the aforesaid Thomas in exchange for thirty acres of pasture in Barton near Flixton; and then proceeds at greater length to describe the land in terms not now intelligible, two or three words being undecipherable in the original deed of conveyance.¹

¹ Hoc script' testatur indentat' q^d d'nus Joh'nes la Warr d'n's Mamcestr' & d'na Johanna uxor ejus dederunt &c. Thome filio Henrici de Trafford quinquies viginti acras more & pastur' cū p'tin. in Heton et Wythlington scil. illam medietatem placee vocate Brounege jacent' p'prius Heton et que medietas remansit eisdem Joh'i & Joh'ne post quādm partitionem integre placee p'diet' inter ipsos et Dom. Richm. de Langeford f'ctam. Hēnd. & Tenend. &c. redd. ann. sexaginta et decem solid. Et si contingat q^d p'deus Thom. obierit sine hered. masc. corpore, tunc reman. Nich'o filio ejusdem Thome; et si contingat &c. reman. Edwardo f'ri p'det. Nich.; et si contingat &c. reman. Thome f'ri p'det. Edwardi; rem. dom. Joh'ni et Johān et heredibz ipsius.

The earliest Population Returns for Burnage are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits 54 houses tenanted by 55 families or 297 individuals. Of these one hundred and twenty-six were under the age of 15; forty-three above 50; thirteen above 60; thirteen above 70; and one exceeding 80 years. In 1801 the township contained 78 houses and 383 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 454. In 1821 to 513; houses 93; families 98, of whom 31 were employed in agriculture, 63 in manufactures, and 40 otherwise. In 1831 there were 5 houses uninhabited and 91 occupied by 101 families, of whom 39 were engaged in agriculture, 55 in trade and 7 otherwise; total population 507, showing a decrease during the past ten years. In 1841 there were 4 empty houses and 100 occupied by a population of 489, the numbers again exhibiting a further decrease. In 1851 there were 3 empty houses and 104 occupied; total population 563.

In 1655, 27 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, including Francis Mosley, Thomas Fletcher, Widow Birch, &c. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 115, and the total amount of rate collected £162 19s. 11d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor was, in the latter year, £3,553 3s. 9d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land-tax, was £80 15s. 5d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £1,752; in 1829, £1,971; in 1841, £2,413; and in 1853, £2,984.

Burnage is in the polling district of Manchester, and in 1854 contained 17 county voters. There was in the township in 1854 no church, chapel, railway, canal, colliery, mill or other manufac-

Et sciant q^d p'dci quinquies viginti acras more et pastur' & viginti acras dimittunt p'dco Thome in allocac'em et ad balentiā triginti acr' pastur' in Barton juxta flinton quas idem Dom. Johēs et Johanna ei . . . debuit et quas idem Thomas . . . r'sus Thomā filiū Ade de Hulme p' quādam assisam none disseisme. In cujus &c. sigilla p'dcor' d'ni Joh's et Johan. uxoris sue quam sigilla p'dcor' Thome, Nich'i, Edward' & Thome huic indentur alternat' apposu'nt hiis testibz [no names appear.]—*Trafford Evidences, Lancashire MSS.* vol. xxv. p. 88.

tory; neither was there any public-house. The number of beer-houses in the township was three. In 1844 the lands of the township were in the hands of twenty-nine owners, of whom the following were the chief:—

	A.	R.	P.
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.....	333	2	28
John Bibby Esq.....	54	0	17
John Wood Esq.....	52	0	28
Edmund Wright Esq.....	47	1	0
William Caistor Esq.....	45	0	26
Lea Birch Esq.....	24	0	16
Thomas Brown Cave Esq.....	19	2	0

Assuming the area of the township to be 635 acres, the lands were thus divided:—Arable land, 200 acres; meadow and pasture land, 420 acres; roads 15 acres.

For the reason already assigned—its all but total inculture in early times—Burnage possesses few features of antiquarian interest, and little to call for remark. It never appears to have been the place of residence of any family of note. In its ecclesiastical relations it was tributary to the mother church of Manchester to the extent of the payment of tithes, though its more immediate dependence was upon Didsbury chapel, towards the repairs of which it was called upon to contribute as exigency required. In 1658 thirty-four land-owners within the township paid chapel-rate to Didsbury, amongst whom were Mr. Thomas Birch of Birch, William Birch of the Lumm, and Robert Didsbury. In 1701 the tithes of Withington and Burnage (there is no separate return) were leased by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester to Mr. W. Birch for the sum of £32 per annum. In 1848 the amount paid to the Dean and Chapter in lieu of tithes for Burnage alone was £72 10s.

This relationship of Burnage to Didsbury as one of the four townships originally included within the chapelry limits, was never called in question until the year 1814, when the Churchwardens of the chapelry, Messrs. Robert Fielden and Thomas Hudson, were involved in an expensive and tedious law-suit, extending over five years, in order to establish the connexion hitherto undisputed. In

that year, at the Easter vestry, Mr. Thomas Mottram of Burnage was elected a sidesman for the chapelry. At the same meeting the Churchwardens were requested to take such legal steps as they might judge expedient and be advised in order to collect leys and maintain the rights of the church. To effect this the wardens instituted a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court against Mottram for refusing to serve the office of sidesman. The defendant procured a prohibition from the Court of Queen's Bench to stay the suit in the Ecclesiastical Court. By this change of venue Mottram became plaintiff and the Churchwardens the defendants. The cause was tried at the Lancaster assizes in August 1817. The issues tried were two, — firstly, the claim of Didsbury to chapelry rights, viz., wardens, sidesmen, church-rates, &c., — and secondly, whether the township of Burnage were in the said chapelry. A mass of evidence was produced, and the verdict on both issues given in favour of the defendants, thus asserting the rights of the chapelry, and devolving the costs of the suit upon the plaintiff. Mottram, to evade the payment of costs, suffered imprisonment. The Churchwardens therefore came upon the chapelry in vestry for reimbursement of the defendants' (i.e. their own) costs, amounting to £1,464 9s. 2d., and Mr. Robert Fielden threatened to file (and afterwards did file) a bill in chancery for the recovery of the same. Towards liquidating the claim a vestry meeting was convened, F. Philips Esq. of Bank Hall, Heaton Norris, in the chair, when a church-rate of one shilling and threepence in the pound was assessed throughout the chapelry, — ninepence to be paid by the landlords and sixpence by the tenants. How far this reimbursed Mr. Fielden is not known, but up to his death he asserted that he had a large unliquidated claim against the chapelry.

A schoolroom, the nucleus of a future church, is about to be erected in Burnage; meanwhile a room has been lent for school purposes, which has also been licensed for Divine service. Burnage has no charity exclusively its own, but shares in the several charities which extend their operations over the entire chapelry, — Mosley, Chorlton, Boardman, Bland and Linney. — See under Didsbury, pp. 100–106.

TOWNSHIP OF HEATON NORRIS.

The township of Heaton Norris lies six miles south-south-east of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Levenshulme and Reddish, the stream called the Black-brook separating it from those townships; on the south by the river Mersey, which there forms the division between the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Reddish and Stockport, the river Mersey flowing between it and the latter town; and on the west by Burnage and Didsbury. Heaton Norris bears the same relation to Stockport in geographical position that Salford bears to Manchester.

The name *Heaton* is descriptive of one of the distinguishing peculiarities of its situation; *Hay*, *Hey* or *Hea* implying in the Anglo-Saxon a separate enclosure within a forest or park fenced with a rail or hedge; and thus the whole word indicates a town or hamlet fenced in from the surrounding forest. It takes the adjunct of *Norris* from its association with the family of that name who were its early proprietors, and for the sake of distinction from other places possessing the like features and known by the same name, as Heaton in Prestwich parish, &c.

Albert Grelle (the younger), second Baron of Manchester, who died some time before the 28 Henry II. (1181), gave to William Norreys or Norris two carucates of land in Heaton, subject to a rent of ten shillings,¹ and from him doubtless the township received its name. This grantee was a member of the ancient family of Norreys seated at Blackrod and Speke, whose progenitor is supposed by Dr. Ormerod to have been a Norwegian, and to have settled in this country, commemorating his descent in the name he adopted, "le Norreys."² William Norreis who by deed

¹ Abb'tus Gredde juvenis dedit Will'o Noreus ij caruc' terre in Heton, p' x sol'; heredes ejus tenēt illā t'ram. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Proceedings of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, vol. ii. p. 138.

dated 34 Edward I. (1305) conveys to his brother Alexander certain lands in Denton, is described in the deed as "de Heaton."

From the inquisition p.m. of Robert Greslet in 1282 it appears that the manor of Heaton Norrys, a member of Manchester, yielded an annual rent of £4 6s. 4½d., and was held of Edmund Earl of Lancaster by service of doing suit to the Earl of Lancaster.

Heaton Norris, though itself claiming the style, title and dignity of a separate manor, was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester; and its inhabitants were required to contribute towards the support of the lord's bailiff and his four under-bailiffs.

From a survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322), it appears that in Heaton Norris there are 225 acres of arable land, or six bovates and a half, worth £9 3s. 10¼d.; there are, moreover, 135 acres of heath-land, worth £7 11s. 3¼d, at different sums per acre, and six bovates and a half of land worth 32s. 7d., at different amounts per bovat. There are also in Heaton twenty-three messuages on lands built upon for divers terms. The pasture lands are estimated at 136 acres, and are said to be worth 34s., but, it is added, there are in the lord's wood 70 acres pasture in common for the tenants of Heaton and Withington with their members, with six weeks' time of pannage which cannot be reckoned at a value beyond the sufficiency for the commoners. Heaton Norris, it is declared, has a wood called Heton Wood, which has oaks and hayes [fenced enclosures], in which the tenants of Heton who hold in fee by charter have housebote [leave to take timber out of the lord's wood to repair a tenant's house] and haybote [leave to take thorns to repair fences] out of the lord's liberties, by which means many things are totally destroyed and not renewed, wherefore the yearly value in wood, pannage or other issues of the wood is not computed, if it were it might in a short time fail. There is a moor called Heton Moss, which contains 70 acres of turbary, and in which the freeholders of Heton have housebote whilst it affords enough; besides which the lord may sell turbary, as he does at present, to the amount of 6s. 8d. yearly;

but this cannot be enumerated amongst the yearly profits because it will soon cease to be. At Heton is a mill turned by the Hore-millsich, worth yearly 16s. 8d. And there is a certain Fishery in the Merse, to the middle of the river, from Grimesbotham as far as Ditesbery Moor, worth 6d. And this mill, before the time of the Lady of Heton, was wont to be turned by the Merse, and was then worth 4s. yearly; but now it is not worth so much from want of water, and yet at it ought all the tenants of Heton to grind. In this survey "The Turf-pitts between Heton Norres and Reddish" are named as a part of the boundary-line enclosing the manor, but the situation indicated is now unknown.

A passing allusion has been made to the interest of the Norris family in Heaton, commencing as early as the reign of Henry II. It continued uninterrupted until the reign of Edward I., beyond which time nothing is known of their further association with the township.

In the 1 Henry V. (1413), as appears from the Inquisition p. m., Arthur Workesley or Worsley died seised of lands in Workesley Vill &c., and also in Heton Norres. The same estates were still in the family in the reign of Henry VIII. In the 27 Henry VIII. (1535) Robert Worsley Esq., the immediate ancestor of the Worsleys of Booths, and great-grandson of the above-mentioned Arthur, died in possession of the said lands, and four years after his death they became the subject of litigation at Lancaster,—Adam Worsley being plaintiff in the suit, and Robert Worsley defending himself against a charge of forcible entry and tortious possession of lands and messuages in Heytone Norreys.

In this reign the family of Reddish also held estates in the township. From the Inquisition p. m. of Otho or Otes Reddish in the 14 Henry VIII. (1522) we learn that he was seised at his death of Reddish manor and also of lands in Heton Norres. He was the eldest son and heir of John Reddish and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq. The descent of this estate is shown by the several Inquisitions of John Reddish, his son, in the 1 Elizabeth (1558); his great-grandson John

Reddish in the 11 Elizabeth (1569); and Alexander Reddish, his great-great-grandson in the 11 James I. (1613), at whose death the estates were conveyed by his daughters and coheiresses into the families of Coke and D'Arcy.

In Queen Mary's reign a disputed right of road from the capital messuage of Portwood to Stockport Church was tried in the Duchy Court; certain lands in Heaton Norris were included in the inquiry, and the action lay between William Duckenfield Esq., who is described as a tenant of Brynnington, the plaintiff, and Ralph and Katharine Nycholsone the defendants. Another action, probably arising out of this, was tried in the same court in the 3 Edward VI. (1549), Richard Nicholson prosecuting Oliver Hidson and others in respect of interruption to a right of way to a messuage, lands and tenements in Heyton Norres.

In the 8 Elizabeth (1565) Robert Holme (Hulme) of Hulme Hall in the adjoining township of Reddish, sued Thomas Holme at Lancaster for detention of title-deeds of messuages and lands pledged for security of money lent, the estates under litigation being situated in Reddish, Heton Norres, and Denton. Five years later, Robert Holme is himself defendant in an action brought against him by Thomas Nicholson, the lessee of Robert Chatterton, in relation to property in Heton Norres township. Inquisitions p. m. of William Holme, dated 14 Charles I. (1638), and of William Holme, dated 17 Charles I. (1641), show the family to have been landed proprietors in the township at a later period. In the 10 Elizabeth (1567) Robert Roos, otherwise Rosse, claiming as heir to Sir James Strangewishe Knight, seised in fee, contests with Lord Dacre and John Elcock, claimants by conveyance from Sir James Strangewishe Knight, divers lands, tenements and hereditaments in Heyton Norres manor, Heyton Strangewishe and Heyton.

Amongst other land-owners in the township in the reign of Elizabeth was Sir Gilbert Gerard Knight, of Wymerleigh in the county of Lancaster, Master of the Rolls, who died in the 35 Elizabeth (1592) seised of lands in Heaton Norris. The year pre-

ceding his death he was plaintiff at Lancaster in a suit with Nicholas Langford and others touching his right to certain waste ground called Heaton Woods, and fishing in the ponds of the waste and the woods under Heaton. Sir Gilbert represented a branch of the Gerards of Brin in the same county, and was appointed in the first year of Queen Mary's reign Reader at Gray's Inn, of which society he shortly afterwards became treasurer, being associated in that office with Nicholas Bacon, subsequently Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. In the 1 Elizabeth (1558) he became Attorney-General, and in this office he remained until the 23rd year of her reign, when he was made Master of the Rolls. His principal seat was Gerard's Bromley in the county of Stafford, which Sir Gilbert built. He died, as already stated, in 1592, leaving issue by Ann his wife, daughter and heiress of William Radcliffe of Wimersley in the county of Lancaster Esq., two sons, Thomas and Radcliffe, and four daughters. His son Thomas, in the 39 Elizabeth (1596), being then a Knight, was constituted Knight-Marshal of the King's Household for life. In the 1 James I. (1603) he was advanced to the dignity of a Baron of the realm by the title of Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley; he died in 1618.¹ The Gerards were lords of the manor of Heaton Norris in the reign of Elizabeth. Towards the close of that reign the manor was conveyed by purchase to Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who in his will devised it to his eldest son Rowland. From the Mosleys it passed by inheritance to the Blands, who about the middle of the last century disposed of it by sale to the Egertons of Tatton in the county of Chester. William Tatton Egerton of Tatton Esq. M.P. is the present lord of the manor.

The name also of Gregory Lovell Esq. occurs about this time in the annals of the township as a landed proprietor. He is described as Cofferer to the Queen's Household, and was in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) plaintiff at Lancaster in a suit relating to certain lands in Heaton Norris which he claimed by conveyance from Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. He was of Merton in the county of Surrey, the

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, p. 417.

second son of Sir Francis Lovell and grandson of Sir Gregory Lovell of Barton Bendish in the county of Norfolk. Sir Robert Lovell, his eldest son by a second marriage with Dorothy daughter of Nicholas Green, whose Inquisition p. m. is dated the 44 Elizabeth (1601) was his successor in the Heaton Norris estate. His widow Dame Jane Lovell afterwards appears as prosecutrix in the Duchy Court against one Roger Duddell and Alice his wife in respect of a disputed messuage in Heaton Norres.

In the 20 Elizabeth (1577) Sir William West Knt. Lord De la Warre, and Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. lords of the manor of Manchester, assert their claim against Sir John Ratcliffe, Deputy-Steward of the Hundred and Manor of Salford, to hold courts-leet and exercise other manorial privileges in Heton Norres and other places within Manchester town and manor. In the same reign Sir Edmund Trafford was a suitor in the Duchy Court with reference to lands, tithes &c. in Trafford, Stretford and Heaton Norris, the defendants in the action being Thomas Goodere and Katharine his wife in right of the said Katharine, who is executrix of Ralph Sorocold. The defendants in this suit were land-owners in Didsbury, where they probably resided. Of the families already enumerated not one appears to have resided in the township; nor was it at any time, as far as can now be gathered, the abode of any family possessing claim to distinction. In 1844 the lands of Heaton Norris were in the possession of fifty-three proprietors, of whom the principal were:—

	A.	R.	P.
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.....	1035	0	0
Francis Philips Esq.	197	2	37
Mr. John Goulden	78	1	15
Mr. Edmund Wright	65	2	22
Estate devised by the late William Hulme Esq...	62	1	36
Mr. John Thorniley	41	0	1
Mr. Cephas Howard	39	3	24
London and North-Western Railway	38	2	20
Mr. John Graves	29	0	6
Mr. Dakin	28	3	18

Assuming the total area to be 1,840 acres, the lands were thus divided: — Meadow and pasture land, 980 acres; arable land, 670 acres; site of buildings, 100 acres; roads, 50 acres; railway, 40 acres.

Traces of an ancient British encampment still exist in the township, towards the north. It is surrounded by a moat, and retains in part its early name, the “Peel” or the “Peel moat,” from the Celtic *Pill*, a small fortress or stronghold.

Heaton Norris includes the several hamlets of Heaton Mersey, Norris Hill, Bank, Blackbrook, Bower-house, Folds, Top-o’th-Bank and Underbank. Of these the most important is Heaton Mersey, situated in the south division of the township on the banks of the Mersey, from which it receives its name. Here is situated Mauldeth Hall, the residence of the Bishop of Manchester, and formerly the seat of Mr. Edmund Wright, from whose



executors it was purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1854. It is a modern mansion of stone, and is conjectured to have taken its name from an earlier designation of the site on which it

is erected—the Marled Earth — corrupted into Mauldeth. It was built by Mr. J. C. Dyer, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Wright the late owner. The grounds are of some extent, measuring upwards of a quarter of a mile from north to south, and nearly a quarter of a mile from east to west, and embracing an area of 39a. 2r. 9p. The estate is on the borders of the townships of Burnage and Heaton Norris, but in the latter township, and on the confines of the two dioceses of Manchester and Chester. It was conveyed by the representatives of the late Mr. Edmund Wright to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by deed, dated February 7, 1854.

The earliest Population Returns for Heaton Norris are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits 134 houses, four of which were untenanted; the number of families 141; individuals 769. Of these, two hundred and sixty-seven were under the age of 15; one hundred and thirteen above 50; fourteen above 60; twenty-one above 70; and seven above 80.

In 1801 the township contained 422 houses, and 3,768 inhabitants.

In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 5,232.

In 1821 there were 1,050 inhabited houses, 11 empty, and 12 in course of erection; families 1,429, whereof 72 were employed in agriculture, 1,353 in trade and manufactures, and 4 otherwise; total population 6,958.

In 1831, houses occupied 2,127, 11 building, and 59 empty; families 2,220, of whom 141 were chiefly engaged in agriculture, 1,713 in trade, and 366 otherwise employed; total population 11,238.

In 1841, houses occupied 2,772, ditto untenanted 587, ditto in the course of erection 11; total population 14,629.

In 1851, houses occupied 3,135, ditto untenanted 190, ditto in course of erection 14; total population 15,697.

In 1655 sixty persons in the township were rated to the relief of the poor; amongst whom were Anthony Ellcock, clerk, 18s. 6d., Edward Hulme and Thomas Williamson for Shaw House. The

total rate collected for the half-year ending November 25 was £22 10s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £1,906 15s. 7d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land-tax, was £281 15s.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £12,006; in 1829, £33,584; in 1841, £45,175; and in 1853, £47,202.

There were in the township in 1834, 23 public-houses.

The area of Heaton Norris, according to the computation of Rickman in the Census Returns of 1831, is 2,180 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 2,126 acres; the Tithe Commissioners, as adopted in the Census Returns of 1851, 2,108 acres; and the Ordnance Survey 2,115a. 1r. 20p.

The township is intersected by the London and North-Western Railway, which crosses the Mersey by a stupendous viaduct.

In 1826 a new turnpike road, called the Wellington Road, from Manchester to Buxton, was opened to the public; commencing at Heaton Chapel, it is carried on arches over the town of Stockport from north to south, and was constructed at an expense of £30,000. The old road, now disused, was formerly known as the High-street. Amongst the ratepayers in 1655 was John Holt of Streethouses, the name, doubtless, of some cottages built by the road side.

The Ashton, Manchester and Oldham Canal terminates at Lancashire Hill, a steep acclivity above the Mersey.

Heaton Norris has two charitable foundations exclusively its own;—

1. HOLLINGPRIEST'S CHARITY.

John Hollingpriest, by will bearing date August 5, 1785, gave to his executors the sum of £200 upon trust, to dispose of the same for the use and benefit of the charity school situate upon the turnpike road in Heaton Norris in such manner as to the said executors shall seem best.

Mr. John Lingard was the surviving executor, and upon his

death his representatives paid the sum of £200 to Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan, solicitors at Stockport, who lent the same on the 31st of May 1816, to John Holt at 5 per cent interest; and as a security for this money six houses in Dale-street Stockport were mortgaged to John Vaughan Esq. Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan have regularly accounted for the yearly sum of £10, though they have not received the interest from the mortgager since May 1820. The school to which the above-mentioned donation was made is situate near St. Thomas's Chapel, and appears to have been erected upon the waste by subscription about a century ago, and to have been repaired by the same means. The building consists of two stories, of which the lower is applied to the purposes of a school-room, the upper story being divided into apartments, and used as a residence for the schoolmaster. A small play-ground, containing about twenty perches, adjoins the school. The master of this school is appointed by the inhabitants of the township of Heaton Norris, and he receives £9 per annum from Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan in respect of Hollingpriest's legacy, £1 being retained by them for their trouble. The master has upon an average about ninety scholars, who are instructed upon his own terms in reading, writing and accounts; no children being taught gratuitously.¹

2. TITHE BARN CHARITY SCHOOL.

There are in the township of Heaton Norris certain premises adjoining an estate called the Tithe Barn House, which appear to have been appropriated for the support of a school. They consist of two cottages with gardens, and a small plot of ground in front, formerly used as a play ground for the scholars. These premises formerly constituted part of the waste of the manor belonging to Wilbraham Egerton Esq., and it is reputed that the cottages were built by a subscription upwards of sixty years ago, and that at the same time Richard Jepson, George Fletcher, John Chorlton and Edward Norris were nominated trustees for the school, for the support of which these premises were intended, but it does not

¹ Commissioners' Report of 1826, vol. xvi. p. 198.

appear that any deed was executed for conveying the legal estate to those persons. From this period up to the year 1818 it seems that there were always four persons who acted as trustees in letting the property or such part thereof as was not occupied by the master, and in ordering the necessary repairs and in receiving and paying the rents, for which purpose they met annually on Christmas day, and upon a vacancy appointed the schoolmaster; but since 1818 no meetings have been held. Thomas Jepson, the grandson of Richard Jepson above-mentioned, is now the only survivor of those who were acting as trustees in 1818, and the vacancies which have occurred since that time have not been filled up. In 1816 Thomas Higson was appointed schoolmaster, and one of the cottages was given up to him for his residence, but a certain rent was reserved; the other cottage was let. As long as the annual meetings were held, the amount of the clear rents, after deducting the expenses of repairs, was paid by the acting trustees to the schoolmaster for his stipend, and on this account he was required to teach a few children of the township or neighbourhood without any further charge. Since 1818 the schoolmaster has continued in the occupation of one of the cottages, with the garden thereto attached, without accounting for any rent, but for several years he has not had a single scholar. Applications have therefore been made to him by some of the principal inhabitants of the township to give up possession of the premises, but this, up to the time of our inquiry (February 1826) he had refused to do, upon the plea that he was willing to teach any children if they were sent to him. It appeared, however, to us that he was, from ill-health and indolent habits, totally unfit for the situation of schoolmaster; and we stated to him our opinion that he had no right to retain possession of these premises except upon the terms of keeping school, which he was incompetent to fulfil, and he engaged to give them up in the course of a month from that time. The cottage in the possession of Higson is in a fair state of repair, and is worth about £6 per annum. The other cottage is now in the possession of William Williamson as yearly tenant at a good rent of £5 5s.

per annum; it has been lately put into a good state of repair by subscription. The rent of this cottage has lately been paid to Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan, in whose hands there was at the time of our inquiry a balance of £12 1s. 9d. due to the charity, arising from the amount of the rents received by them and the surplus of the subscription above-mentioned, after the payment of the expense of the repairs. It is intended out of this balance to defray the expenses of preparing the cottage in the possession of Higson for the reception of a new schoolmaster as soon as it is given up. It seems desirable that some steps should be taken for appointing new trustees for the management of this property; and as the inhabitants are anxious that this should be done, and Wilbraham Egerton Esq. lord of the manor, has expressed his willingness to convey the school premises to gentlemen of the neighbourhood, as trustees for a school, we hope that the charity may soon be placed upon a better system.¹

For charities of Sir Edward Mosley Knt., Thomas Chorlton, Sergeant Boardman and Dame Ann Bland, in all of which the township participates, vide under Didsbury, pp. 100-106.

In its ecclesiastical relations, Heaton Norris, from the remotest times, was a part of the district appertaining to the parochial chapel of Didsbury; and as associated with that township it was in a like degree tributary to the parent church of Manchester. In the 37 Henry VIII. (1545) Ralph Trafford and others were parties in an action against George Collier Warden of Manchester College, touching a disputed title to tithe-corn in Trafford, Hetton, Heyton &c. Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Trafford, whose name occurs in relation to the suit, was late wife of George Leigh, who farmed the tithe of Heaton. In 1701 the tithes of Heaton Norris were leased by the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church to Mr. H. Hulme for the sum of £50 per annum. In 1848 the rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same area, payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, was £286 10s.

As early as the year 1422 a grant of 11½ perches of land in

¹ Commissioners' Report of 1826, vol. xvi. pp. 198-199.

Heaton, "lying between lands in the tenure of William Hanson de Heton on the west, south and east, and the public road there on the north," had been made to the Warden of Manchester by Thomas, Lord De la Warre, intended as it might seem for ecclesiastical purposes. Dr. Hibbert Ware conjectured this and a similar plot in Gorton to be incidental to chapels in those townships, but it seems quite as probable that they were designed as sites for tithe-barns. That a tithe-barn once existed in the township is certain, for in 1607 one Ellen Smyth of Tythe-barn was buried at Didsbury, as appears from the chapel registers; and the obscure origin of certain premises now devoted to charitable uses in the immediate vicinity of the more modern Tithe-barn House seems to point to them as affording some clue to the purposes to which that gift has been applied. However this may be, there is no evidence of the existence of a chantry or chapel in the township at any former period.

In 1650 the Parliamentary Commission sitting at Manchester reported that "at Heaton Norres, having no parsonage or vicarage nor any spiritual benefice, and seven miles distant from the parish church, there should be a chapel; and Heaton Norres and Reddish joined together in one parish." This, however, was not done, and in 1658 twenty-two of the residents within the township were found contributing to a chapel-rate for the repairs of the parochial chapel of Didsbury. It was not until upwards of a century later that the suggestion of the Commission was carried into effect. In 1758 a site for a new church was offered by Mr. Thomas Collier of Heaton Norris, yeoman, in extent 1,712 square yards, being part of a close called the Yarn Croft. A church was erected thereon by voluntary subscription of several pious and well-disposed persons, which was consecrated July 29, 1765, by the name of St. Thomas's in Heaton Norris. It is a structure of no architectural pretensions, of brick, stuccoed to represent stone, and covered with substantial grey slates. Its original dimensions externally were, length 51 feet, breadth 39 feet, and it was calculated to contain 300 persons. In 1839 it was enlarged; by which means 334 addi-

tional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society, 250 of that number were declared to be free and unappropriated for ever. Galleries have also been erected in the transepts, whereby 160 sittings have been gained. As it now appears, the chapel consists of a nave comparatively spacious, with north and south transepts, and a chancel somewhat circumscribed. The west-end of the chapel is surmounted by an octagonal bell-turret. Before its enlargement access to the chapel was gained through a porch at the west end; there are now two entrances to the nave, and one to the gallery, the transept galleries being entered from within the chapel. The organ-loft is situated over the chancel, and is lighted by two small windows in the roof; it is entered from without. In March 1850, St. Thomas's Heaton Norris was returned as a district chapelry under the 59 George III. cap. 134; number of sittings 632, of which 382 were appropriated and the remainder free. It is now a separate rectory, under the provisions of the Manchester Rectory Division Act.

The first incumbent of St. Thomas's was the Rev. William Beresford, who was nominated to the chapel at its consecration in 1765. He was succeeded by the Rev. James Cooke, who officiated there in 1774, and later in 1786. The next incumbent in succession was the Rev. James Taylor, who died there in 1802. He was followed by the Rev. James Gatliff, who was nominated by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester October 18, 1802, being at the time stipendiary curate of Gorton chapel. In 1808, on the death of the Rev. John Darbey, Incumbent of Gorton, Mr. Gatliff was appointed to succeed him, his nomination bearing date October 29, 1808. In 1817 he edited Wogan's *Essay on the Proper Lessons of the Church of England*; in doing this he incurred a heavy pecuniary responsibility, from which he was unable to free himself, and was imprisoned at the suit of his publisher. During his incarceration a dispute arose between himself and the Bishop of Chester as to the sequestration of his living and the appointment of a curate in his absence, and on his liberation he published a statement of his case in a pamphlet wherein he very intemperately

assails his diocesan and also his brother the Rev. John Gatliff, Fellow of the Collegiate Church, for what he considered their unfeeling conduct towards him. In 1826 he returned to Gorton where he continued to reside until his death in 1831. He was interred within the chancel of Gorton chapel. On the resignation of St. Thomas's by Mr. Gatliff in 1808, the Rev. Charles Panton Middleton M.A. of Brazenose College Oxford, was nominated to the vacant chapel, which he held together with Hollinwood chapel in Prestwich parish, but afterwards resigned the latter. He was chaplain to the Earl of Tyrconnel, and received his education at the Manchester Grammar School. He died in 1844, and was succeeded by the Rev. Edward Dudley Jackson B.C.L., the present incumbent.

The endowment of the chapel consists of money contributed for that purpose, — £800 private benefactions, £400 from the governors of Queen Ann's Bounty, and £1,400 parliamentary grant; which several sums were expended in the purchase of three small farms, one in Cheshire and two in Yorkshire, producing in 1835 an annual income of £116. The farms have been recently sold, and the proceeds of the sale, amounting to £2,700, invested in the funds for the benefit of the living. A parsonage-house has also of late been erected in further augmentation of the endowment. It was built in 1847 on a plot of land purchased from Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton Park, at the nominal price of a farthing a yard. The cost of its erection was upwards of £1,200, which was defrayed by a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, aided by a donation of £200 from the present incumbent, and the contributions of the parishioners.

There is an old parochial day-school near the chapel, erected upwards of a hundred years ago by public subscription, to which reference has already been made under the head "Hollingpriest's Charity." A Sunday-school in connection with St. Thomas's is held in this room, but the building does not belong to the chapel. Nearly a century elapsed before any further effort was made to extend church accommodation in the township. Since the erection

of St. Thomas's the population of Heaton Norris had increased upwards of twenty fold, and the need of additional churches was felt to be urgent. On the 29th of July 1844, the foundation stone of a new structure, to be called Christ Church, was laid by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton, lord of the manor of Heaton Norris, who gave the site and also a further donation of £1,000. The site selected is on the south-east side of the township near to the railway station. The chief contributors to the building-fund were the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society £2,000; the Diocesan Church Building Society £500; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £500; the Incorporated Society £400; and the rest by private subscription. The communion-plate was presented by Mrs. Egerton; the organ by Mr. John Marsland; the desk by Mr. R. C. Sharpe; and a further donation of £200 towards a spire was promised by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. The entire cost of its erection was £6,929, and the accommodation provided is 1,217 sittings, of which number 625 are free. It was consecrated October 21, 1846. It consists of a nave, chancel, side aisles and transepts, with a tower at the west end. Its proportions are as follows:—Nave 86 feet 10 inches in length, 22 feet 6 inches in breadth, and 44 feet 9 inches in height; chancel, 12 feet by 20 feet 6 inches; side aisles, 77 feet in length, 12 feet 8 inches in breadth, and 27 feet 3 in height; transepts, 14 feet 4 inches in length, 23 feet 7 inches in breadth, and 27 feet 3 inches in height; tower, 11 feet 4 inches square, and 79 feet 8 inches high. The clerestory rises 11 feet 6 inches from the roof of the aisles. The height of the church to the apex of the roof is 55 feet 9 inches. Christ Church was returned in 1846 as a district chapelry erected under the provisions of act 1 and 2 William IV. cap. 38; the annual endowment arising from money invested, exclusive of pews-rents, was £30. The first and present incumbent is the Rev. Charles Babington Jeaffreson M.A., late curate of Wilmslow.

The district assigned to the church is bounded on the north by the boundary of the borough of Manchester; on the south by the river Mersey (on the west of the Wellington Road), and a foot-

path running parallel with the church into the Manchester old road; on the east by the Manchester old road; and on the west by a portion of the boundary of the borough and the river Mersey. A site for schools (valued at £800) was also given by Mr. Egerton. The cost of their erection was about £900.

In the same year (1844) the erection of another church in the township, at Heaton Mersey, was decided on, and the foundation stone laid by Mr. John Marsland, but circumstances delayed the progress of the work, and it did not receive consecration until August 26, 1850. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The style of architecture adopted is the early English, and the cost of its erection was £4,252 4s. 7d., towards which the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society contributed £600; the Chester Diocesan Society £150; the Incorporated Society £200; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £150; and the remainder by private subscription. It consists of a nave 67 feet by 43 feet 6 inches, and a chancel 22 feet by 18 feet 9 inches. The tower, which is at the west end, is in height 74 feet, and is surmounted by a spire 51 feet 6 inches high. There is a porch at the south entrance to the church 10 feet by 8 feet 10 inches. The height of the church from the floor to the apex of the roof is 52 feet 6 inches. The site, in extent 3,600 yards, was given by Mr. John Goulden. The church contains 536 sittings, of which 268 are free. The first and present incumbent is the Rev. William Munday Wilson. No schools in connection with the church have as yet been built. A site for a parsonage-house of equal extent with that of the church was also given by Mr. Goulden, and a parsonage-house has been erected thereon.

The Dissenters have five places of worship in the township.

Hanover chapel (Independent) was erected in 1821, and is a plain and substantial structure of brick, stuccoed, having a tower ornamented with four pinnacles. The site was purchased at a cost of £800, and the sum of £5,000 was expended on the chapel itself, of which amount £2,000 was contributed by a family named Howard. It contains 800 sittings appropriated, and 200 free

sittings for the poor. The east window is filled with stained glass, in which are representations of Faith, Hope and Charity. In 1855 schools were erected in connection with this chapel, and also a large lecture-room calculated to hold seven hundred people, at a cost of £2,000. An organ has been added during the present year, for which £500 has been paid.

Wycliffe chapel (Independent) is a neat Gothic structure of stone, erected in the year 1849-50. It will accommodate 530 adults and 200 children. The principal promoters of its erection were John Hampson Esq., who contributed £700; James Kershaw Esq. M.P. £450; Joseph Heaword Esq. £300; Sir Elkanah Armitage Knt. £50; James Carlton Esq. £50; and William Woodward Esq. £50. The site is held subject to the payment of an annual chief rent. Sunday and day schools are attached.

Tiviot Dale chapel (Wesleyan) was erected in 1824, at a cost of £14,000. It is of brick, fronted with white free-stone. The style of architecture is Grecian. It is approached by a lofty portico, supported by massive pillars of the Ionic order. It is of a size sufficient for the accommodation of 2,500 worshippers.

The two remaining chapels in the township are those of the Particular Baptists in Heaton Lane and of the Independents at Heaton Mersey.

Towards the close of the last century a school was founded at Heaton Mersey by Mr. Robert Parker, an extensive calico printer in the township. Primarily designed for the exclusive purposes of education, Mr. Parker afterwards desired that a license being obtained it should also serve as a church until a more suitable structure could be obtained; and for this purpose he applied to the Warden and Fellows of Manchester to procure from the bishop the necessary sanction; but this was refused, the bishop objecting to the celebration of Divine Service in any other than a consecrated building. Shortly afterwards a communication reached him from the Rev. John Wesley, requesting the use of the room for the ministrations of members of the Wesleyan body, to which he assented, in the belief that such ministrations could not but be

beneficial in the midst of a population for whom no adequate church accommodation had been provided. The school thus passed into the hands of dissenters, and has since ranked as one of the auxiliaries to the great school at Stockport.

Extract from the will of Robert Parker, late of Heaton Norris in the county of Lancaster, calico printer, deceased, bearing date July 17, 1815 :—

“I give and bequeath to the Manchester Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital the sum of £1,000, to be laid out in land for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the Manchester Lying-in Hospital the sum of £500, to be laid out in land or invested in the three per cent consols for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the Stockport Sunday-school situated in Duke-street the sum of £500, to be laid out in land or invested in the three per cent consols for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £500. I give and bequeath to the school at Stockport under the Established Church on Dr. Bell’s plan the sum of £200. I give and bequeath to the Stockport Dispensary the sum of £200. I give and bequeath to the Free School at Hesketh in the county of Cumberland the sum of £100; the three last-mentioned sums for charitable purposes to be paid to the treasurers of the said several charities for the time being. I also give and bequeath the sum of £500, to be invested in the three per cent consols, the dividends and interest thereof to be paid to the Churchwardens of Didsbury, to be by them applied under the direction and with the assistance of the proprietors of the works at Heaton aforesaid to the support and repairs of the Sunday-school at Heaton, and towards the clothing of the children of the said school.”

The will was proved at Chester August 22, 1815, and the effects of the testator sworn under £175,000.

There is another branch of the Stockport school in this township situated at Lancashire Hill, at which latter place the New Connexion Wesleyans also have a Sunday school.

Reference has been made to the parent Sunday school at Stockport, which, from its magnitude, is worthy of a more special notice. It was founded in the year 1784 by a few religiously-active and benevolent men of different denominations, who lamented the prevalent ignorance of the town, and who overlooked the interest of party in the earnestness and comprehensiveness of their desire to promote the knowledge and happiness of their fellow-men. The schools were held at first in cottages, then an empty factory was taken, and step by step the cause advanced, until in 1805 the present structure of brick was erected. In 1850, 5,188 children were receiving education from upwards of 450 voluntary teachers. Of these 5,188 scholars, 3,868 were being taught at the Stockport school, 209 at Brinksway, 319 at Heaton Mersey, 491 at Lancashire Hill, and 301 in the Heaviley branch school, these latter schools being auxiliaries to the principal school at Stockport. The expenses of conducting these schools are defrayed by private subscription, and an annual collection, which on one occasion amounted to £500. Upwards of £20,000 has been spent in school buildings since the commencement. Its affairs are managed by trustees chosen from all religious denominations. There are in the Stockport school no fewer than eighty-three rooms, independent of the magnificent lecture-room which occupies the third story. It is furnished with a fine organ, the gift of Mr. Robert Parker in 1811.

TOWNSHIP OF REDDISH.

This township lies four miles and a half south-east from Manchester, and is situated on the confines of that extensive parish as also of the county itself, being separated from Cheshire by the river Tame shortly before its confluence with the Mersey. It is bounded on the north by Denton and Gorton; on the south and east by the river Tame, which there separates the counties of Chester and Lancaster; and on the west by Gorton, Levenshulme and Heaton Norris. There is a hamlet of that name in Lymm, eight miles and a half north-west from Nether Knutsford; a "Great Reddish Wood" near Bramhall in Cheshire; a township of "Redditch" on the borders of Warwickshire, and also a hamlet of "Reddich" in the parish of Tardebigg, Worcestershire. The orthography of the word has varied considerably at different periods; we find it written Radish, Radich, Redich, Rediche, Redyeh, Redwyche, Redish, Reddish, Reddishe, &c. The popular pronunciation is Redditch, and its name is said to have originated in an alleged discoloration of the waters of the Nicker Ditch, a local stream, from admixture with the blood of the Danes after an engagement with the Saxon inhabitants of Manchester about the year 869.¹

The township contains the three hamlets of Reddish Green, Sandfold and Whitehill. Reddish Green is about five miles south-east of Manchester. It consists of two "Greens," the smaller one lying nearer to the Stockport road is called emphatically Little Reddish Green, to distinguish it from the other, which was situated more in the heart of the township. Sandfold, so designated in 1679, is about four miles and a half south-east from Manchester. This small hamlet is popularly known as "th' soot-hole," into which it has been corrupted from Sandhole, — a pit or quarry whence sand has been obtained for many generations. The Sandfold farm in the middle of the seventeenth century was the

¹ *Foundations of Manchester*, vol. i. p. 11.

residence of a family named Oldham, well known in the local annals of dissent. It was here, at John Oldham's house, that a sermon was preached (a MS. copy of it is still preserved) by Mr. Robert Chadderton in 1681 from the text Romans viii. 9. Here, too, was born and died Thomas Oldham, one of the chief promoters of the erection of the Presbyterian Chapel at Gorton in 1705, and who contributed also to its endowment. He died in 1710, and was interred beneath an altar tomb within the cottage adjoining the chapel he had assisted to found.¹

Whitchill lies five miles and half south-east from Manchester, and about three quarters of a mile north of Stockport. It is so named from a house bearing this designation built upwards of thirty years ago by George Shawcross, a bleacher.

The Nicker Ditch, which flows between Reddish and Gorton, connects Reddish with the Saxon era. On the south side of the ditch, within the township, are several undulations known as the "Nicker Knolls." These have been supposed by all who accept the tradition of a Saxon and Danish conflict, to be ancient barrows or tombs, in which were deposited the bodies of the slain. A little south-south-west of these is a slightly elevated plot of land, in extent nearly a statute acre, and known as "Castle Meadow." It is nearly circular in form, level, and in point of elevation higher than the adjacent land. Tradition points to it as the site of a fortification, and its date is immediately referred to the occurrences just spoken of. Two of the fields adjoining the Nicker Ditch and appertaining to the Sandfold estate of the Oldhams, have been since the year 1745 designated "Blue Caps," in memory of the unwelcome intrusion when "all the blue bonnets came over the border."

At a very early period we find a record existing of a corn-mill in the township. By a deed undated but referable to the close of the thirteenth century, John de Hyde and Ellen his wife remise to Alexander, son of Robert de Hyde, all their right in the lands of Hethinglegh within the township of Brinnington, which lands had been given to them by Hamnet de Dokinfield, together with a

¹ Higson's *Gorton Historical Recorder*, p. 81.

third part of Reddish Mill.¹ This was doubtless a soke-mill erected by the lord for the use of his tenants, who, in recompense of the outlay, pledged themselves to grind their corn there. Its site is still pointed out. Amongst the tenants of the Earl of Lancaster in the 10 Edward II. (1316) mention is made "de firma ter Wilt fil Rogeri in Radish 6s." In the Extent and Survey of the manor of Manchester taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322) the line is described as "following the middle of the said river (Tame) between the county of Chester and Ashton as far as Moreclou at Redish; and so following Moreclou as far as Saltersgate; and from thence following the ditch of Redish as far as into Muchelditch; and following that as far as le Pegfenengate [or Peytonyngate]; and following that as far as le Turf-pitts between Heton Norres and Redish; and from thence following le Merebroke as far as the conjunction of the waters of Tam and Mersey," &c. Five centuries have done much to obliterate features at one time sufficiently distinct to serve as land-marks. Moor Clough, it has been conjectured, is what is now called Reddishwood, a little south of Reddish Hall, where there is a sort of ditch, part of the line of a rejected canal. Muchel or Muckle (that is "the great") Ditch is supposed on the same authority to be identical with the Black Brook, whilst Pegfenengate or Peytonyngate and the Turf Pits, two other points through which the boundary-line passes, are wholly untraced. These boundaries seem to exclude Reddish from the manor of Manchester, for otherwise it is probable that the course of the river would have been followed.

In the 15 Edward III. (1341) a tax was levied under the authority of the crown in every parish throughout the land towards defraying the expenses incurred by the king in the prosecution of his late wars with Scotland and France. In agricultural districts the tax was to consist of the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece, and

¹ Oibz. &c. Joh'es de Hyda et Elena ux' ejus Salt'm &c. Nos remis &c. Alex' fil' D'ni Robti de Hyda tot' jus in t'ra Hethingle in vil' de Brynintun q'm t'ram h'uimus ex dono Hamnet de Dokinfeld una cu' 3^{ia} p'te molend' de Redish, &c. Test. D'no Rob. de Stockp'te. Jo' de Byrun; Olivero de Langford; Henr' de Trafford Matheo de Birches, &c. — *Harl. MSS.* 2,112 fo. 117.

the ninth sheaf of corn, or their equivalent in money; in towns or boroughs a ninth part of the value of the goods and chattels of the inhabitants. It was assessed by a commission appointed for the purpose, who were empowered to take statements on oath. The name Redyche appears under the head of Manchester parish, and the payment decreed for that township was lijs. iiijd.¹

The superficial area of the township, as computed by Rickman in the Population Returns of 1831, was 1,460 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son's Survey estimates it at 1,573 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 1,541a. 2r. 1p.

The earliest Population Returns for Reddish are in the year 1774, at which period it contained but 54 houses, tenanted by 57 families, representing a population of 302 souls; of these 111 were under the age of fifteen, 51 above fifty, 10 above sixty, 5 above seventy, and 2 exceeding ninety. In 1801 the population numbered 456; in 1811, 532; in 1821, 574; in 1831, 860; in 1841, 1,188; in 1851, 1,218.

In 1655 there were 25 ratepayers in the township, two of whom paid three-sevenths of the entire rate, viz. Sir Edward Cooke [Coke] £5 15s. and Mr. Jo. Hulme £2 4s. The aggregate poor's rate collected in the six months ending November 25, 1655, was £18 15s. 6½d. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £266 6s.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township as assessed to the land tax was £343; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,555; in 1829, to the same, £5,650; in 1841, £6,503; and in 1853, £8,354.

Reddish has neither post-office, schoolmaster, lawyer, doctor, nor pawnshop.

The proprietors of the Manchester and Oldham Canal, by an act passed in 1793, obtained powers to form a length from their cut at Clayton demesne to Heaton Norris, a distance of about six miles. It is parallel with the high-way from Gorton toll-bar, and is on the level throughout; it was opened in 1797. The quantity of land required in Reddish was 13a. 3r. 24p. Powers were also obtained to form a branch to the Denton Collieries, a distance of about

¹ Nonarum Inquisitiones.

three miles. Bridges were built for the purpose, but the project was subsequently abandoned. The branch railway from Stockport to Guide Bridge passes through Reddish, appropriating 18a. 0r. 13p. of land, and extending rather more than a mile and three quarters. There is no station in the township.

The inhabitants are almost entirely occupied in agriculture; crofting, weaving (by hand-loom), and the manufacture of hats once slightly prevailed, but not to any extent, and consequently the population has always been small as compared with other townships. In 1851 it was only 1.116 person to the statute acre.

The total number of land-owners in Reddish in the year 1844 was 27, of whom the principal were:—

	A.	R.	P.
Robert Hyde Greg and John Greg Esqrs. (Reddish Hall, &c.)	535	3	18
Trustees of the late William Hulme Esq. (Hulme Hall, &c.).....	225	2	5
John Hyde Esq.....	210	0	33
The late Rev. William Fox's heirs (Wood Hall, &c.)	66	2	33
The Right Honourable the Earl of Wilton...	65	3	32
John Duncuft Esq.....	62	3	6
Michael Newton Esq.....	52	1	14
Ernest Hannibal Becker Esq.	41	0	14
Joseph Marsland Esq.	37	1	13
London and North Western Railway	18	0	13
Ashton Canal... ..	13	3	24

Assuming the area of the township to be 1,504 acres, it was thus divided:—Arable land, 90 acres; Meadow and Pasture, 1,320 acres; Wood and Water, 50 acres; Buildings and Streets, 44 acres.

In its ecclesiastical relations Reddish, as a part of the extensive parish of Manchester, was from the earliest times tributary to the mother church. In 1422, the Collegiate Church of Manchester was endowed with the tithe of corn growing and issuing out of (amongst other townships) Reddish; and in the Charters granted

to that Church by Mary, Elizabeth and Charles I., Reddish is included in an enumeration of the several townships over which the obligation to pay tithe to that church was made to extend. In 1701 the tithes of Reddish were farmed by Jo. Ardern for £18 per annum. In 1848 the annual rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same district, payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, was £134. Reddish still elects a sidesman to the Parish Church. It may be doubted whether this township was at any time included within the limits of the parochial chapelry of Didsbury; such seems scarcely probable. It is included here as united in after years with Heaton Norris, an off-shoot of Didsbury, and together with Levenshulme and Heaton Norris, constituted a separate ecclesiastical district. In 1650 the Parliamentary Commission sitting at Manchester under the authority of the Great Seal of England, reported that "Reddish hath no Church or Chapel, and the inhabitants resort to Stopforth, Denton and Gorton; it is fit to have a Church or Chapel erected betwixt it and Heaton Norres." And in another part of their report they recommend the union of the two townships of Heaton Norris and Reddish, so as to form a separate and distinct parish. This suggestion was not acted upon for upwards of a century, until in 1765, when St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris, was consecrated, a district was assigned to it which included Reddish. Reddish seems to have been overlooked in by-gone years by all religious denominations, being up to the present time destitute of church, chapel or school. Towards the close of the year 1855, the Rev. E. D. Jackson, Incumbent of the district, commenced a school at Lancashire Hill, situated locally in Heaton Norris township, but intended for the benefit of Reddish, and having obtained a license, Divine Service is celebrated there every Sunday evening.

Reddish has no charity exclusively its own, neither does it participate in any of the charities which extend their operations over other neighbouring townships.

Reddish township was the seat of a family bearing that name at a very early period, — a period too remote to be now determined,

owing to the absence of dates in the earlier deeds relating to their settlement there.

In an undated deed, we find Richard, son of Robert de Reddish, conveying to Jordan, his son, all that his share of Hydecroft [or Rycroft] ; and by a similar deed undated, Robert, son of Matthew de Reddish, conveys to Richard, his son, lands beginning "ad aquam de Thame," thence to Chiselbotham and the Alderndnus [? Aldwinshaw] described as "inter Reddish et Denton;" both which conveyances are conjectured to have been made not later than the middle of the thirteenth century.

In the 56 Henry III. (1272) Matthew de Reddish was declared to be seised of one-half of the manor of Reddish ; in which same year he appears as plaintiff in an action against Robert de Reddish, the matter in dispute being the moiety of the said manor. Towards the close of the reign of Henry III., or the commencement of that of Edward I., Roger, son of William [de Reddish] is found possessed of one carucate of land in Reddish, which he held in thanage by the payment of six shillings. It is further declared that Matthew de Reddish holds that land from the said Roger by the same service.¹ The antiquity of the family may be inferred, and their long association with the township, from the nature of the tenure by which they held their lands, thanage being a tenure of Saxon origin. By deed dated 16 Richard II. (1392) Richard de Hide conveys to Richard de Reddish one parcel of land in Denton ;² and in 1415 the name of Robert de Redyche occurs in a list of the retainers of Sir Nicholas Longford Knt., where he is named as attending Sir Nicholas at the battle of Agincourt.³

Otho or Otes Reddish of Reddish, whose Inquisition p.m. is dated 14 Henry VIII. (1522-3), was the eldest son of John de Reddish by Elizabeth, daughter of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq. He married Lucy, daughter of John Dukinfield of Portwood Esq., and had issue a son, John Reddish, by whom he was succeeded.

¹ Rog' fil' Willi tenet j caruc' in Redich' in thanag' p' vj^s. Math' de Radich' ten't illā terrā de ip'o Rogo' p' idem serviciū. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Harl. MSS. 2,112 fo. 119.

³ Harl. MS. 782.

John Reddish Esq. was forty-six years of age on succeeding to the estates of the family. He died in the 1 Elizabeth (1558), as appears from an Inquisition p. m. of that date, seised of the manor of Reddish, and also of lands in Over Heaton, Heaton super Faughfield, Heaton Norris, Manchester, Aldewynghowe in Ashton, and Crumpsall. His wife was Clemence, daughter of Robert Worsley of Boothes Esq.

WILL OF JOHN REDDISH OF REDDISH ESQ. : —

In the name of God amen. The seventh daye of January in y^e yeare of o^r lord God a thousand fyve hundreth fiftie and seven, — and also in y^e fourthe and fyfte yeare of y^e reigne of o^r sov'aygne lord and ladie Phillipe and Marie by y^e grace of God Kynge and Quene of England, Spaine, ffrance, both Cicylles, Jerusalem, and Ireland, Defenders of y^e faythe, Archedukes of Austeria, Dukes of Burgandie, Melen and Braband, Conti's of Haspurge, fflanders and Tirall; — I John Rediche of Rediche wⁱⁿ y^e cōtie of Lancast^r Esquire beyng whole in bodie, and of good and p^rfecte mynd and memorye, thankes unto God, do ordene, make and declare this p^rsente testamēt indented herein contened my last will in man^r and forme followinge; y^t is to saye ffirst I geve and bequeth my soule unto Almyghtie God my Maker and Redemer, and my bodie and bones to Christian buriall where as y^e bones of myne ancestors do lie. Also I will y^t my funerals shalbe made and deducted out of my whole goodes. Also I geve and bequeth to John Rediche, soñe of Otes Rediche my soñe decesed, and now beyng heire apparant unto me y^e foresayd John Redich, all and all manor my waynes, cartes, plowes, harrowes and irons belonging to y^e same, w^t all teames, yokes, axes, awgars, spades, suvels, mattockes and all other instrumēt belonging to husbandrie. Also I geve and bequeth to the forsayd John Redishe all y^e rest, reversion and remender of all my whole goodes and cattels movable and unmovable belonginge unto me y^e sayd John Redishe whatsoev^r y^e be and where soev^r y^e shalbe founde, as well within my house at Redish aforesayd and w^toute as elsewhere. Also I will y^t the foresayd John Rediche in cōsideracion of the forsayd goodes, cattels

w^{ch} I have geven and bequethed unto hym by this my last will and testamēt shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Ane Redishe, dough^r of me y^e foresayd John Rediche w^{thin} thre yerces nexte and imediatelie after my deccase, at such dayes of paymēt as he and she can agree upon for y^e same, the sōme of fortie poundes of good usuall money of England w^{ch} sayd sōme y^e sayd Anc upon hir owne mere mynd and cōsent is cōtented to take and receve in full recōpence, satisffacion, comutacion and paymēt of all suche childes p^{te} of goodes, cattels and dettes as mygte, shuld or oughet to have bync due to y^e sayd Ane by reson of y^e deathe of me y^e sayd John Redishe. Also I will that the said John Rediche shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Elizabeth Redishe, Margaret Redich and Isabel Redishe his sisters, to ev^y of them y^e some of xx^{tie} markes of good and lawfull money of England at such tyme as y^e and ev^y of them shall come unto honest p^rfermēt by mariage or oth^r wise; and if it fortune any of them y^e forsayed Elizabeth Redich, Margaret and Isabell Redich to dep^{te} this life before they do come unto mariage or oth^r p^rfermēt as is aforesayd I will y^t then such sōme and sōmes of money as should have byne payed and deliv^d unto hir so dep^{tinge} shall remene and be payable unto hir oth^r sisters then beyng in playne life. Also I will y^t y^e sayd John Rediche shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Robert Redich my sōne imediatly aft^r my decease y^e sōme of xx^{ti} markes of good usuall money of England w^{ch} he y^e sayd Robarte is cōtented to take and receve in full recōpence, satisffacōn, comutacion and paymēt of all suche childes p^{te} of goodes, cattels and dettes as myghte, shuld or oughte to have been due unto hym by reson of the death of me y^e forsayd John Rediche his fath^r. And also I will y^t if myne executo^{rs} or any of them at any tyme or tymes hereaft^r shalbe putt to any trouble or vexacion by sute of lawe or oth^r wise, of for and cōc^{nyng} ther ex^cucion of this my last will and testamēt y^t then they and ev^y of them shall have y^r chargis borne from tyme to tyme of my hole goodes not p^ticularly bequethed; and further more I will y^t if any clause or article cōtened in this my last will and testamēt be contrary and

repugnante to any law or statute of this realme of Englande, y^t then y^e same shalbe reformed accordinge to y^e true meanyng of this my sayd last will. And to y^e entente y^t this my last will and testamēt may be well and truly accomplished in all causes according to y^e tenor, forme, effecte and trew menynge of ye same I co'stute, ordene, make and appoynte the forsayde John Rediche, Robarte Rediche, Thomas Rediche my bastard brothr, Withm Nicholson and Tho^ms Nicholson my full and lawfull execto^{rs}, and my worshipfull cosins Edward Holland of Denton, and Alexander Barlow of Barlow Esquires ov'seers of y^e same. — In witnes whereof I have set my seale and signed y^e same wth my hands, these beyng witnes, Otewell Rediche, Withm Nicolsonn junior, John Bestwicke, wth others, that is to saye S^r James Broke chapleyne and Geffrey Holme.

Otes Reddish, the eldest son of the testator, died during his father's life-time, having married Alice, daughter of Ralph Prestwich of Hulme Esq., and by her he left issue, besides other children, John, who succeeded his grandfather, and George, who settled at Clifton in the parish of Eccles. Alice Reddish survived her husband many years. Her will is dated March 17, 1575-6 (proved at Chester March 29, 1576). She describes herself as of Heaton faulghefeld, widow, "latte wyffe of Ottes Rediche of Rediche Esq. decēd." She desires to be buried in Manchester Church in the syde eyell near unto her late husband. After her debts &c. paid she wills that her goods &c. be equally divided amongst George, Thomas, and Isabel Redich, her three children, her executors. She appoints as supervisors of her will her brother Edmund Prestwich of Holme Esq., her cousin Alexander Barlow of Barlow Esq., and her brother-in-law Edmund Assheton of Chadderton Esq. Witnesses, Rauffe Hogden, Edmund Hylton, Thomas Bolton, with others. Debts owing by the testatrix, — Isabel Redich, her daughter xxxij^{li}; Thomas Redich her son vij^{li}; Robert Haworthe vij^{li} xij^s iiij^d. Thomas and Isabel renounce the executorship.

George Reddish, third son of Otes Reddish Esq., married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton of Honford in the county of Chester, and from him branched Reddish of Clifton. He makes

his will December 16, 1587 (proved at Chester October 29, 1588). He commends his soul to God and his body to the earth, and his worldly goods to be disposed of as follows:—First he wills that all the tenement or farm he holds, taken of Mr. Worsley of the Boothes, shall remain unto Dorothe his wife during her life, and afterwards, that it shall return to his two sons Otes and William Radish. Also he gives to his said wife all the term and occupation of James Clayton's field at the will and pleasure of his (testator) good nephewe. Also he gives the lease of his house in Manchester unto his said wife. And as for the rest of his worldly goods, he wills that they be equally divided into three even parts, whereof he gives one part to his wife, the second part to his children, and the third and last part he reserves to himself and to his own use. He wills this to stand and remain his last will and testament, of which he appoints his wife Dorothy Reddish and his brother-in-law William Bruerton of Hanford Esq. executors. Witnesses, Thomas Reddiche, William Grynhill, Thomas Wilson and Christopher Hall.

Debts owing to testator:—Thomas Goodyer of Manchester, draper, and George Birche, mercer, as appeareth by an obligacōn, the sum of C^{li}.

Item of the Widdowe Birche at the Church Style in Manchester xx^s.

Item, a bargaine of wood bought of Mr. Holland of Clifton cost xx^{li}.

Item, a bargaine of certaine grounde taken of Mr. Duckenfeild, forty poundes.

The inventory of his goods and chattels amounts but to £125 9s. 5d., including £22 in plate. It enumerates "thinges at the Boothes," "thinges at Chetham Hill," "thinges at William Wood his house in Manchester." Dorothy his wife died in 1623-4, and was buried at the Collegiate Church of Manchester January 30 in that year. Her will, dated the 28th of December 1619, is as follows:—

In the name of God amen. The eighte and twentieth daie of December in the yeare of the reigne of oure most dread soveraigne

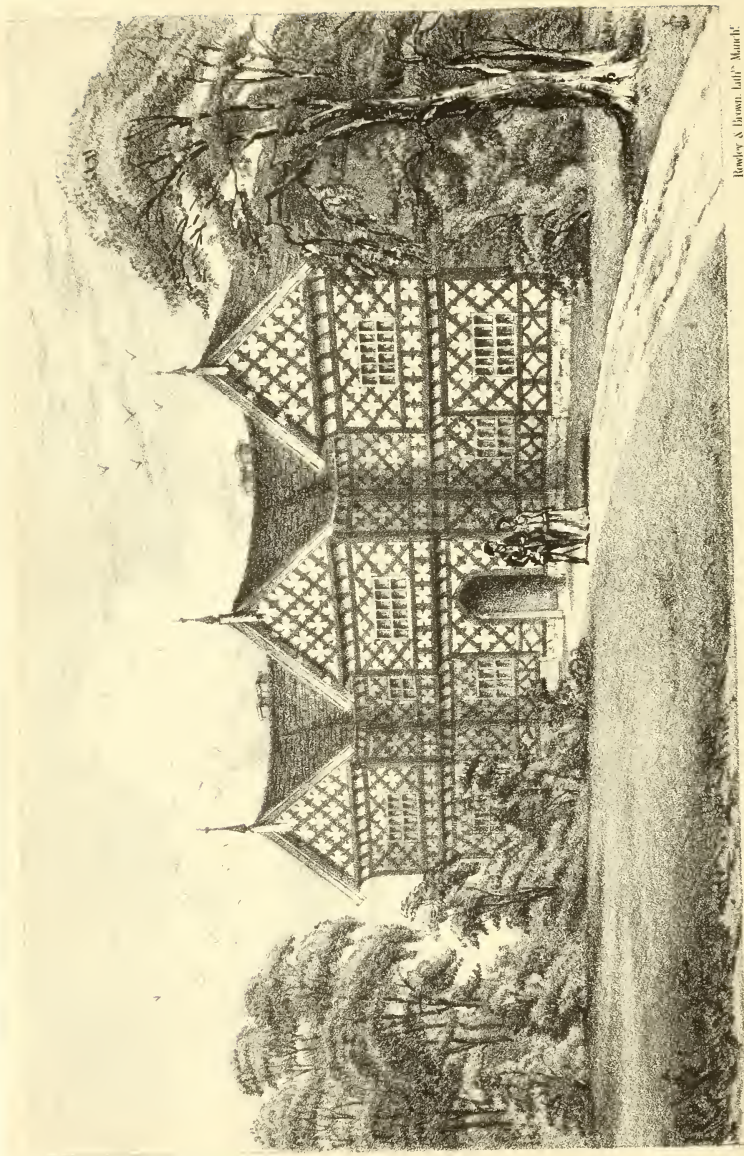
Lord James, by the grace of God Kinge of Englande, Scotlande, ffrance and Irelande, Defender of the faith, &c.; that is to saie, of Englande, ffrance and Irelande the seavententh, and of Scotlande the three and fyftieth; I Dorothe Reddish widowe, late wyfe of George Reddish late of Reddish in the countie of Lancaster gent. deceased, beinge in good health and perfect remembrance, God therefore bee praised, and knowinge death to bee most certaine to all people, do make and devise this my last will and testament, in manner and forme followinge:—ffirst and principally I doe comitt my soule to God Almightye my Maker, trustinge to bee saved by the precious bloodsheedinge of His deere sonne Jhesus Christe my Redeemer, and my bodie to be buried and entombed in the parish church where it shall please God I shall depart, and that a hearse to bee sett over mee accordinge to my birth and callinge. And I doe revoke and recall all former wills and testaments heretofore made by mee the said Dorothe. And for the disposinge and leavinge of such worldlie goodes, jewells and chattells as I shall have or die possessed of at the tyme of my death, my will, entente and minde is as followeth: Item I do geve and bequeath to my sonne Oates Reddish one hundreth pounds and my signet ringe. Item I do geve to my graundchild Margret Hardman fourtie pounds to be paied unto her at her marriage, and in the meane tyme my said sonne Oates Redish to ympleie the same to and for her use and behoofe, yeeldinge and payinge yearlie to the said Margret upon the feast daie of St. Thomas the apostle duringe so longe tyme as she shall lyve unmarried the some of foure pounds of lawfull English money. And yf it please God shee die before shee be married, then my will and mynd is that my said sonne Oates Redish shall have the same some of foure pounds to his owne proper use and benefitte. Item I do gyve to my sonne Edward Redish the some of foure score pounds; and I do geve to the children of the same Edward my sonne twentie poundes to be equally divided amongst them. Item, Whereas I have alreadye geven to my sonne in lawe Thomas Pigott foure score pounds yet nev'thesse I do geve to the said Thomas

my bedd and furniture belonginge unto it and twelve pence in money in full satisfaccōn of such portion of goods as he the said Thomas might at my death clame in right of Jane his wife and my daughter. Item I do geve to the children of the same Thomas Pygott twentye pounds to be equally divided amongst them. Item I doe geve to my sonne in lawe John Porter fourtie pounds w^{ch} I already have lent him, and I geve to Alee his wyfe and my daughter twentie pounds. Item I doe geve to my nephewe William Brereton off Hanford Esquier a double sovereigne to make him a ringe. Item I geve to my brother Urian Brereton one angell in gold to make him a ringe. Item I do geve to the poore in the parish where I shall die twentie shillings to be devided at my funerall. Item I doe geve to the Churchwardens of the parish church of Chedle in the county of Chester and their successors fyve pounds of lawfull money of England to bee employed yearelie towards the releif of the poore in that parish by the said Churchwardens at the oversight of whomsoever shall bee the lord and owner of the Hall of Honford; and that the profite of the said fyve pounds to be geven yearely upon every Good fridaie to twentie the most impotent and distressed people in the said parish by sixpence a peece. Item I do geve and bequeth to the Churchwardens of the parish of Wilmeslow in the said county and their successors fyve pounds of lawfull English money to be employed and put forthe yearelie towards the releif of the poore within the said parish of Wilmeslow by the said Churchwardens at the oversight of whomsoever shall be the lord and owner of the Hall of Honford, &c. Item I do geve to my cozen Elizabeth Leycester of Tabley the sōme of foure markes in money to buy her a ringe withall. Item my will and mynd is that after my debtes, legacies and funerall expenses beinge paied and satisfied, I do geve and bequeth all the rest and residue of my goodes, jewells, cattells, chattells and moveables whatsoever to my three daughters, Margaret, Alee and Jane, to be equally devided amongst them of the free gifte of mee the said Dorothe Reddish their mother. And I do constitute, ordaine and make my sonne Edward Reddish and

my sonne in lawe Thomas Pygott executors of this my last will and testament to execute and p'forme the same accordinge to the true intent and meaninge of this my last will. And I do nominate, require and praie my loving sonne Oates Reddish to be an overseer of this my last will and testament, entreatinge him to be an assistant to see the same well p'formed accordinge to the true meaninge thereof. And in witnes whereof I the said Dorotheie Reddish have hereunto put my hand and seale as my last will the daie and yeare first within written, Anno Dñi 1619. Witnesses, Matthew Couksone, Peter Deane, William Johnson. Her inventory is dated January 21, 1623; her goods and chattels are valued at £560 15s. 6d.

To return to the elder brother John Reddish, heir to his grandfather in the first year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He was yet a minor when he succeeded to the estates. He married Margaret, daughter and coheirress of Sir Robert Langley of Agecroft Knt., and dying in 1569 left two sons, Edward, who died s.p. and Alexander his successor, the last heir male of the family seated at Reddish, whose daughters and coheirresses, Sarah and Grace, married, the one Clement, sixth son of Sir Edward Coke Knt., Chief Justice of England, and the other Sir Robert D'Arci of Dertford in the county of Kent Knt., Great Usher of the Privy Chamber to Henry Prince of Wales. Alexander Reddish Esq. died in 1613.

On the death of Alexander Reddish Esq. the lands of the township, together with other estates in the county, passed into the possession of Clement Coke Esq. in right of Sarah his wife, daughter and coheirress of the said Alexander. Their descendants continued in the enjoyment of them until the close of the last century, when Thomas William Coke Esq. the then owner, wishing to concentrate his property by adding to his Norfolk estates, disposed of Reddish Hall and demesne, together with other lands in the township, to James Harrison of Cheadle Esq., by whose representatives it was sold June 23, 1808, under authority of an Act of Parliament obtained for the purpose, to Messrs. Greg of Manchester, in whom



Rowley & Brown, Lith'rs, Manchester.

Reddish Hall,

THE ANCIENT SEAT OF THE REDDISH FAMILY.

Engraved by James Crispin

it is now vested. The estates thus disposed of were in extent upwards of four hundred acres statute measure.

Reddish Hall was situated on the east side of the township, and was taken down about the year 1780. It was an ancient timbered house of singularly interesting character, and was a very perfect example of the style of domestic architecture prevailing in this part of the kingdom during the fourteenth and two succeeding centuries. The building, originally surrounded by a moat, is said to have been quadrangular in form, enclosing a court-yard, the entrance to which was by a covered archway from the front. With the exception of the basement, which was of solid masonry, the building was constructed entirely of timber and plaster, the details being rather elaborately ornamented. The spaces formed by the intersection of the massive oaken timbers were arranged in diaper-like patterns, and the small intervening compartments filled in with quatrefoils. The principal front, that given in the accompanying illustration, approached in plan somewhat the form of the letter E, having a projecting bay at each end and in the centre, the latter forming the porch, and constituting the main entrance to the hall. These several bays were gabled, and protected by ornamental barge-boards, each surmounted at the apex by a hip-knob. The building was of two stories, and retained the usual peculiarity of the style, having the upper story projecting somewhat beyond the lower. In the interior, the great hall as also several of the other apartments were wainscoted, the upper panels being charged with armorial bearings of the Reddish family. In one apartment the carving was left incomplete, and there was a tradition that the artist was condemned to die, but respited by the king until his work was finished, and that to avoid the penalty he never completed his contract, — an improbable supposition, which doubtless had no better foundation than the existence of certain shields left blank, whereon to record the future alliances of the family. Attached to the hall, and approached by a door to the left under the entrance gateway, was the domestic chapel appropriated to the use of the family and their retainers. The apartment over the gateway was known as the priest's chamber.



Reddish of Reddish.

(From *Hart. MS.* 1987, fol. 50; from a copy of the *Visitation of 1567 in the Chetham Library*; from *Wills, Registrars, &c.*)

Radius de Reddish,
act. 30. 5 Hen. IV.;
ob. s. p.

Otes de Reddish, 10 Hen. IV., 2 Hen. VI. = Ellen, mater Rich.

Richard de Reddish =

John de Reddish, = Elizabeth, dau. of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq.,
20 Hen. VI.; mar. cov. dat. 12 Jan. 20 Hen. VI. She was
then under 16 years of age. — *Hart. MSS.* 2112, fol. 150.

Otes Reddish of Reddish; = Lucy, dau. of John Duckenfield
inq. p. m. 14 Hen. VIII.

Margaret, = John, son and heir
mar. 1 Hen. Baguley.
VIII.

Ann, = Ellis Barlow of
Barlow Esq.

John Reddish of Reddish, = Clemence, dau. of
act. 46, 14 Hen. VIII.; will
Robert Worsley
Dec. 17, 1553; inq. p. m. 1
of Boothes Esq.
Eliz.

Elizabeth, =
Robert Reddish
of Doddleston,
co. Chester; ob.
3 Edw. VI.

Robert Reddish,
ob. s. p.; execu-
tor of his father's
will 1557-8.

Otes Reddish, = Alice, dau. of Ralph and sister and coheir
ob. vit. pat.
of Edmund Prestwich of Hulme; will dat.
March 17, 1575-6, and pr. at Chester March
29, 1576; bur. at Coll. Ch. March 19, 1575-6.

Alice, = Hamon Whichcote
of Whichcote.

Lucy, liv. Jan.
1557-8; bur. at
Coll. Ch. May
13, 1589.

George Reddish of Clifton, = Dorothy, dau. of
executor of his mother's will; 3
his will dat. Dec. 16, 1537, and
Sr Urian Bre-
ton of Honford;
pr. at Chester Oct. 29, 1538; will dat. 28 Dec.
bur. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 27, 1537. 17 Jas. I. (1619.)

John Reddish of Reddish, = Margaret, dau. and = Richard Holland
act. 19, 1 Eliz.; executor of
his grandfather's will; his
Langley of Agecroft
will dat. June 23, 1563; in-
ventory dat. Dec. 10, 1563.
Knt.; sole executrix
of her husband John
Reddish's will.

1 Elizabeth,
liv. 1557-8;
1569.
2 Margaret,
liv. 1557-8;
1569.
3 Isabella,
liv. 1557-8;
executrix
of her mo-
ther's will
1575-6.

Alexander Reddish of Reddish, = Katharine, dau.
1569; inq. p. m. 11 Jas. I.

and heiress of
Humphrey De-
thick of Newhall,
co. Derby.

Anne, = Marmaduke Thwenge
liv. 1569.
of Upper Helmesley,
co. York; act. 24, 1554;
dead 1588.

Sarah, dau. and coheir; = Clement, sixth son of Sr
inq. p. m. 6 Car. I.
Edward Coke Knt. Chief
Justice of England.

Grace, dau. and coheir; = Sr Robert D'Ard of Dertford, co. Kent, Knt.;
Great Usher to the Privy Chambers to Henry
Prince of Wales.

The township of Reddish derives additional celebrity as having been at a very early period the seat of the Hulme family, ancestors of William Hulme the munificent founder of the Exhibitions at Brazenose College, Oxford, which bear his name.

By an undated deed, Robert, son of William de Hulme conveys to Richard del Hull "capellanus" certain messuages in Rediche. This conveyance appears to have been made in order to a settlement of estates incident to the marriage of his son, since in an accompanying deed, also without date, there is a re-conveyance on the part of Richard de Hull of the same estates to Robert, son of William de Hulme and Margaret his wife. In another deed, undated, William de Hulme, described as of Reddish, conveys to John, his brother, certain lands and tenements in Reddish, Denton and Heaton Norris. As to the time when these conveyances were made we can but conjecture; the absence of dates seems to point to a period not later than the year 1290.

Laurence, third son of Robert Hulme, described as of "Hulme juxta Stockport," was living in the 9 Henry V. (1421). He was succeeded by his son Geoffrey, who married Cecily, daughter of William Hulton of Farnworth Esq. In the 8 Elizabeth (1565) Robert Hulme, great-grandson of the above-named Geoffrey, entered a suit at Lancaster against Thomas Hulme, touching an alleged unlawful detention of title-deeds of messuages and lands pledged for security of money lent; the premises in dispute being situated in Reddish, Heaton Norris and Denton. Eight years later he was defendant before the same court in an action with George Hulme, probably a relative, whose name does not however appear in the family pedigree. The property then litigated was a messuage and lands called Tynklers and other lands in Maghull, Reddish, Hulme and Heaton. He died in the 27 Elizabeth (1584) leaving issue by his wife Anne, daughter of Robert Holt of Ashworth Esq., a son Ralph, of whom it is stated that he purchased certain lands with a capital messuage in Hulme in the county of Lancaster.

Ralph Hulme married Thomasine, daughter and heiress of John

Marler of Manchester, and on the 1st of May 1602 Letters of Administration of her father's estate were granted to her husband and herself. Dissensions afterwards sprung up between them, and in 1614, as appears from certain proceedings in the Consistory Court at Chester, they were living apart. She survived her husband about four years, dying in 1627. Her will is dated December 25, 1627. She mentions therein her eldest son William, her daughter Jane, and her younger son John. To the latter she bequeaths all her property. She complains of the unnatural behaviour of her elder son and her daughter, and of the unkind treatment she had received from her husband. Ralph Hulme died in 1623.

William Hulme, the eldest son of this unhappy marriage, succeeded to the estates on the death of his father. His wife was Christian, daughter of Richard Banaster of Oakenbottom in the county of Lancaster. He makes his will December 20, 1637. — In the name of God amen. The twentieth daye of December in the yeare of the raigne of our Sov'aigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland, Kinge, Defendor of the faith. I William Hulme of Hulme in Redich in the p'ish of Manchester and countie of Lancaster, gentleman, being of whole mynde and p'fect memorie, laude and praise be geven to God therefore, doe make, publish and declare my present testament conteneinge herein my last will in manner and forme following: — That is to saye, ffirst and principally I commit and commend my soule into the hands of Allmightie God my Maker and Preserver, hopinge in the merits of Jesus Christ His Sonne to be one of the number of His eilect; and my bodie to be buried in my owne Chappell adioyning to Jesus Chappell wthin the p'ish Church of Manchester, or where yt shall please God to dispose yt. And as concerneing my worldly estate touchinge my landes, tenementes, goodes, debtes, cattelles and chatelles, yt is my mynd and will they shall be disposed of as hereafter followeth: and first yt is my mynd and will that all the lands belongeing to Hulme and in Manchester or els wheare shall stand and be setled with the

p'feets theireof according to the forme, effecte and true meaning of one Deed indented and made betweene me and certeine ffeoffees in trust relacōn theireunto had yt shall and maye more fullie appeare. And allsoc it ys my mynd and will that my funerall expences, debts and legacies shall be taken and payed out of all my whole goods, debts, cattells and chattells whatsoever. And first I give and bequeath unto Maister Hulton now minister att Ringley Chappell twentie shillings of lawefull money of England. Allsoc I give and bequeath unto the Chappell of Ringley the sūme of ffyve pounds of good and lawefull money of England to be employed for the better yearlye maineteineing of a minister theire. Item I give and bequeath unto Anne Barlowe my nursse tenn shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Abraham ffletcher, sonne of Thomas ffletcher of Stonicliffe, twentie shillings to be used onely for the benefyte of the said Abraham till he doe accomplish the age of twentie and one yeares. Item I doe give and bequeath unto Raphe ffletcher who now dwells wth me the sūme of sixe pounds of lawefull money of England, to bynde him prentice to some gainefull occupacōn. Item I doe give unto the same Raphe my stuffe coate, my greene dublet and breeches. Item I give unto my brother John Hulme my blacke cloake and my watch. Item yt is my mynd and will and my desire is that my ffeoffees would p'mit and suffer Ellen Hulme to have some convenient place to dwell in rente free till her two sonnes be able to keepe themselves. Item it is further my mynde and will that after my debts paied, theise legacies beforenamed and my funeralls expences truly deducted, that all the rest and remainder of all my said goods, debts, cattells and chattells, I refer them in trust to John Hulme my brother to be used by him or by his appointment to and for the use and behoofe of William Hulme my sonne, accompting theireof to the said William Hulme when he the said William shall accomplish the age of twentie and one yeares, or in case of his death, then to the issue of the said William Hulme my sonne. And that this my last Will and Testament maye well and truly be p'formed accordinge to true intent and meaneing of me

the said William Hulme, I doe hereby appointe, ordaine and make my welbeloved brother John Hulme my sole and onely executor to p'forme the same as my trust is in him. And I doe hereby adnull and revoke all and everie other and former testament, gifte, legacie, bequest and executor whatsoever att any tyme heretofore by me in anye wise made, named, willed or bequethed. In witnes whereof I the said William Hulme have hereunto put my hand and seale the daye and yeare abovesaid, 1637. Witnesses, William Ashton, Joseph Lees, Thomas Cadewell, George Hulme.

The inventory of his goods and chattels is three-fold; first, as taken "at his house called Hulme in Redich in the countie of Lancaster, taken the seconde day of Januarie anno Dñi 1637;" secondly, "More goodes of the said William Hulme at his howse in Outwood in the parish of Prestwich taken 3 Januarie 1637;" and thirdly, "More goodes of the said William Hulme at his howse called Withingreaves Hall wthin the towne of Manchester." The will was proved at Chester December 27, 1637.

He was succeeded by his son William Hulme the Founder, who was born September 10, 1631, and would therefore be but six years old at the time of his father's death. He married in 1653 Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Ralph Robinson of Kersley in the county of Lancaster, and by her had issue an only son, Banaster Hulme, who died in the life-time of his father. Being left childless, he devoted his estates to charitable uses, subject (in part) to a life-interest in them bequeathed to his widow. He died October 29, 1691, and was buried in the chapel founded by his ancestors within the Collegiate Church of Manchester. His will is dated October 24th in the same year:—

I William Hulme, of Kearsley, within the county of Lancaster, Esquire, doe hereby revoke all former wills by me made, and do ordain and make this my last will and testament as followeth: And first I do give and devise unto William Baguley, gent, my cosen, and to his assignes, my messuages, tenements and lands in Kearsley and in Outwood and Whitefield in Pilkington, in the said county, w^{ch} I hold under the severall demyses of the Right

Honourable the Earle of Derby and John Starkie Esq., during my interest and title therein, upon this trust and condition, that he the said William Baguley or his assigns shall annually pay unto Richard Baguley, his brother, and to Christopher and Alexander Baguley, his uneles, the respective sums of ten pounds a-pieece at Lady Day and Michaelmas Day, equall poreõns yearly during the continuance of the said William his interest therein; and likewise upon this further condition, that in case Elizabeth my now wife shall be desirous to inhabit in or upon the said messuage and tenement in Kearsley, that then he the said William Baguley and his assigns shall permitt her the said Elizabeth to hold and enjoy the said messuage and tenement for and during so many years as she the said Elizabeth shall pay unto the said William Baguley or his assignes the annuall sum of eighteen pounds; and as to my messuages, tenements and lands of inheritance in Heaton Norris, Denton, Ashton-under-Line, Redditch, Manchester and Harwood, in the said county, it is my will and mind, and I do hereby devise all that my capitall messuage, tenement and demesne lands, called Hulme Edgeroft and Hulme's Moor, in Redditch and Denton aforesaid, unto the said Elizabeth my wife, during her life, in lieu and recompence of her jointure and dower, she maintaining and keeping the houses and fences of or belonging to the same in good and sufficient repair during her interest therein; and after the decease of my said wife, yⁿ It is my further will, and I do hereby devise unto my said cosens, Christopher Baguley, Alexander Baguley and Richard Baguley, the several respective annuall sums of ten pounds a-pieece, to be issuing out of my said capitall messuage, tenement and lands last mencõned, and to be payable unto them respectively at Lady Day and Michaelmas, by equal portions, for and during the term of their severall lives respectively; and for non-payment thereof it shall be lawfull unto and for the said Christopher, Alexander and Richard, severally to distraine in and upon the premisses, from time to time, as in case of a rent-charge. All the rest and residue of my said inheritable lands and hereditaments, from and after my decease, and the reversion of the said

capitall messuage, demesne lands and premisses soe devised unto her as aforesaid, from and after her decease charged and chargeable as is afores^d, I do hereby devise and give unto James Chetham of Turton Esq., William Hulme of Davyhulme Esq., and the said William Baguley, my kinsman, and their heirs for ever, to the intent and purpose that the clear annuall rents, issues and profits thence arising and growing, over and above all charges and reprises, shall be paid and distributed to and amongst such four of the poor sort of batchellors of arts taken such degree in Brazen-nose Colledge in Oxford, as from time to time shall resolve to continue and reside there by the space of four years after such degree taken, equally and proportionably, as the same rents, issues and profits shall annually amount unto, and so to continue to such like four poor batchellors, successively for ever, such said batchellors from time to time to be nominated and approved of by the Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, the rectors of the parish churches of Prestwich and of Bury, in the said county of Lancaster for the time being, and their successors for ever, my mind and will being that noe such batchellors shall continue to have anything of this my exhibition but only for the space of four years, to be accompted from the time of such degree taken. As to the personall estate of goods, chattles, debts and credits wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me, it is my will, and I do hereby give one third part (in three parts to be divided) thereof unto the said Elizabeth my wife. Item I give and bequeath unto James Taylor the younger, of Brightmet, the fifteen pounds w^{ch} he oweth unto me by bond, and to Elizabeth his mother five pounds, and unto James Taylor her husband the forty shillings which he owes unto me. Item I give unto the wife of James Burgess of Manchester, five pounds; to Edmund Greaves, my servant, forty shillings. Item I give unto Joshua Dixon, clerk, five pounds, whom I desire to preach my funerall sermon; and all the rest and residue of my said personall estate, after my debts, legacies and funerall expenses paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto the said William, Christopher, Alexander and Richard Baguley,

equally to be divided amongst them. And of this my last will I constitute and make the said William Baguley sole executor. In witnes whercof I have hereunto put my hand seal the four-and-twentieth day of October, Anno Dñi Millesimo sexcentesimo nonagesimo primo 1691.

And my further will is, that the said Elizabeth my wife, over and above the said third part of my personall estate, shall have the trunck and goods therein w^{ch} was her late mother's, and all y^e goods and furniture now remaining in the chamber and rooms at Manchester where we used to lodge, now in the holding of Richard Hopwood, and such other household goods now in the house at Kearsley, where wee inhabit, as she shall reasonably desire for the better furnishing of the said chamber roomes; and moreover shall have the use and occupacōn of the same chamber and roomes without the paying of any rent for the same during her natural life.

W. HULME.

This writing was signed and sealed by the above-named William Hulme, and by him declared as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunder written our names as witnesses, in the presence of the said testator: Tho. Lever, Tho. Sergeant, Tho. Loe, Mar^t Dawson.

His widow survived him nearly nine years, and dying in 1700 was buried July 5, at the Collegiate Church.¹ She is described in her will, which bears date June 19, 1700, as Elizabeth Hulme of

¹ The precise spot within the walls of the Collegiate Church where are deposited the remains of many members of this family is the chapel which bears their name, built by some long-forgotten ancestor. The chief memorials still to be traced are commemorative of William Hulme Esq. the Founder and Elizabeth his wife. A flag-stone in the centre of the chapel is thus inscribed:—

Hic jacet corpus Gulielmi Hulme de Hulme armigeri qui obiit vicesimo nono Octobris anno Domini 1691, ætat. suæ 61.

Sub hoc lapide cum marito charissimo nec non peramabili filio, Elizabeth Hulme de Hulme in Reddish vidua quinto die Julii anno Domini 1700 deposita tandem requievit. Hic etiam jacet corpus filii Banister Hulme, sepulti undecimo die Septembris A.D. 1673. At the foot of the stone are sculptured the arms of the family:—Barry of eight; on a canton a chaplet. Crest: a lion's head erased; on his head a cap of maintenance.

Kersley widow. She names therein her cousin William Baguley of Kersley gent.; Richard Baguley, clerk, his brother; her cousin Christopher Baguley, of Outwood; Elizabeth, daughter of the late Richard Bradshaw of Pennington Esq., to whom she bequeaths the sum of £900; her niece Mary, wife of Charles Manwaring of Pennington gent., and daughter of her (testatrix) sister Jane Egerton; her niece Anne, wife of John Crosse of Turton gent., the other daughter of her (testatrix) sister Jane Egerton.

She names as her executor William Assheton clerk, rector of Prestwich.

On the death of Mrs. Hulme the reversion of the rest of the estates came to the trustees named in her husband's will. At this time the number of exhibitors was four, and the annual rental of the estates was about £30 or £40, but this could scarcely include the estates in which Mrs. Hulme had possessed a life-interest. Each exhibitor received £10 per annum.

In 1770 an Act of Parliament was obtained by the trustees to enable them to grant building-leases of lands belonging to the Charity, situated within the town of Manchester, for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years, or for one, two or three lives. Power was also given to increase the number of exhibitions from four to ten, and the yearly allowance to the exhibitors from £60 to £80.

By a later act, 35 George III. cap. 62 (1795), further powers were granted to the trustees to convey in fee, or to grant leases for lives or for long terms of years, with or without covenants for renewal, under reserved yearly rents. They were also empowered to increase the number of exhibitions to fifteen, and the annual allowance to each exhibitor to £110.

In 1814 a private act was passed (54 George III. cap. 205) entitled "An act for amending two several acts of the 10th and 35th years of the reign of his present Majesty relating to the estates devised by William Hulme Esq., and to enable the trustees thereof to apply the trust monies in making an allowance to and provision for the exhibitors of certain exhibitions founded by the said testator in Brazenose College, Oxford; and also in found-

ing and supporting a lecture in Divinity in the said college, and to incorporate the said trustees, and for other the purposes therein mentioned." After reciting that by reason of the great increase in the value of the said trust estate since the passing of the last-recited act, the annual proceeds arising therefrom, amounting to the yearly sum of £2,502 16s. 8d. over and above the interest of the sum of £23,700 which the said trustees had saved out of the rents and profits of the said trust estates, after paying and applying such parts thereof as they had from time to time deemed necessary and expedient for the support and improvement of the said estates, it was enacted as follows : —

1. To allow to each exhibitioner such annual sum as they (the trustees) should think proper, not exceeding £220.
2. To provide rooms and lodgings in Oxford for the residence and accommodation of the exhibitioners rent-free, and for that purpose to purchase or lease, and alter and improve or build houses in Oxford.
3. Not to lay out for the last-mentioned purpose more than £5,000.
4. To pay a Lecturer in Divinity, to be annually nominated by the Principal of Brazenose College, such an annual sum as the trustees should think fit, not exceeding £150.
5. The fifth section incorporates the trustees by the title of "The Trustees of the estate devised by William Hulme Esq.," and empowers them to have and use a seal with Hulme's coat of arms engraved thereon, and inscribed "Sigillum Hulmianum."
6. To elect and choose as many persons as would keep up the number of trustees at twelve.
7. To provide for an annual meeting of the trustees in Manchester on the first Thursday after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, between ten and twelve, for the transaction of all business relating to the trust estates.
8. To empower the nominators to appoint undergraduates as exhibitioners (hitherto the choice of the trustees had been

limited to bachelors of arts, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Hulme's will).

9. To empower the trustees to dispense with the residence of exhibitioners in college for certain terms.
- 10 and 11. Provisions for payment of expenses.
12. Provides that a statement of the annual receipts and disbursements should be transmitted to each trustee.
13. Provides that buildings to be purchased in Oxford should not be part of Brazenose College unless accessible to the college by the common gate.

In 1827 the trustees had again recourse to Parliament for a further extension of their powers. The act then obtained (6 and 7 George IV. cap. 9) is entitled "An act to enable the trustees of the estates devised by William Hulme Esq. to appropriate certain parts of the accumulated funds arising from the said estates in the purchase of advowsons, and for other purposes therein mentioned." After reciting that the number of exhibitioners remained the same as at the passing of the last act, and that the value of the exhibitions had been gradually augmented, the value of each being now £155, namely £120 towards maintenance and lodging, and £35 for books; and that a lecturer in Divinity had been appointed at a yearly salary of £105; that as yet they had been unable to carry into effect the provisions of that act by which they were empowered to provide rooms and lodgings in Oxford for the exhibitioners; that at the last annual meeting in 1826 the annual income arising from such part of the said trust estates as consisted of lands and hereditaments amounted to the sum of £3,291 17s. 11d., and that the accumulated fund which had from time to time arisen from the surplus rents and profits of the said trust estates amounted to the sum of £42,203 0s. 4d., and that the dividends and interest annually accruing from such fund produced the sum of £1,658 19s.; it was enacted as follows:—

1. The trustees are empowered to purchase out of the existing and future accumulations, advowsons or other ecclesiastical benefices provided that a surplus accumulated fund of

£20,000 shall be left at the least, and that not more than £7,000 should be expended on one advowson.

2. That notice of all purchases should be given to the Bishop of Chester and to the Principal of Brazenose College.
3. That the trustees should transmit to the Bishop of Chester a list of all who had been exhibitioners on Hulme's foundation ; and in every succeeding year a list of all who had been nominated exhibitioners in that year.
4. That notice of avoidance of any living should be given to the Bishop of Chester and to the Principal of Brazenose College.
5. That within five months after the avoidance of any living the trustees should present another fit person.
6. That if the trustees do not present within five months, the appointment to lapse to the Bishop of Chester out of persons who had been exhibitioners.
7. Empowers the trustees out of any surplus income to lay out in erecting or building parsonage-houses and outbuildings any sum not exceeding £700 on the buildings of any one benefice.
8. The trustees may purchase and hold advowsons notwithstanding statutes of Mortmain.
- 9 and 10. Are formal provisions, saving rights, &c.
- 11 and 12. As to expenses, &c.

The number of advowsons purchased is about thirty, and their aggregate yearly value upwards of £5,000. They vary in amount from £665 to £88 per annum ; nine of them are above £200 a year, four above £150, five above £100, and the remainder below that amount. The sum set apart for purchase-money, endowment, &c., has been £46,546 9s. 7d.

In 1839, the trustees applied for and obtained further powers, and an act was passed (2 Vict. cap. 17), entitled "An act to enable the trustees of the estates devised by William Hulme Esq. to appropriate certain parts of the accumulated fund arising from the said estates towards the endowment of benefices, the building of

churches, and for other purposes." After reciting that the trustees had, by virtue of the power given to them by the last-recited act, purchased several advowsons on the terms therein specified; that they had not yet been able to provide residence and accommodation for the exhibitioners as contemplated in the act obtained in the 54 George III.; that at the meeting of the trustees held in Manchester February 1, 1839, it appeared from the accounts submitted that the gross annual income arising from such parts of the said trust estates as consisted of land and real estate amounted on the 23rd June 1838 to the sum of £4,376 19s. 1d., and that the accumulated fund which had from time to time arisen from the surplus rents and a cash-balance in hand had amounted in value to £28,005 17s. 4d., and that the dividends and interest annually accruing from such funds and securities produced the sum of £922 17s. 4d.; making together an annual aggregate income of £5,299 16s. 5d.;

It was enacted —

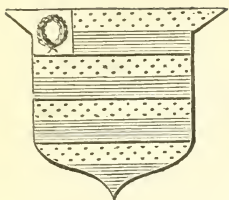
1. To repeal so much of the statute 6 and 7 George IV. as directed the accumulated fund to be kept up to £20,000; and in lieu thereof provides that the accumulated fund should not be less than £5,000, nor without the consent in writing of three-fourths of the trustees not less than £10,000.
2. Empowers the trustees to endow or augment the endowment of any benefice purchased by them; so as such endowment or augmentation did not exceed in any one case £7,000. This clause introduces the restriction "That the trustees shall be members of the United Church of England and Ireland."
3. Empowers the trustees to expend such sums as they should think fit in building, endowing and (providing a fund for) repairing churches or chapels under the Church Building Acts, provided that the sum expended in building or endowing any church or chapel should not exceed £7,000; and no fund for repairs to exceed £350.

4. Rights of patronage to be exercised by the trustees for the purposes of the trust within five months after the vacancy of any living.
5. If no proper person be presented by the trustees within five months after a vacancy, that presentation to lapse to the Bishop of Chester.
6. Empowers the trustees to purchase or build parsonage-houses and to purchase glebes to be attached thereto, not appropriating in any one case more than £700.
7. Alters the day of each annual general meeting of the trustees to the first Monday after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel.
8. Gives to the trustees, as patrons, all the rights which the patron of any the like ecclesiastical benefices possesses.
- 9, 10, 11, 12. Are formal provisions for defraying expenses of act; saving rights, &c.¹

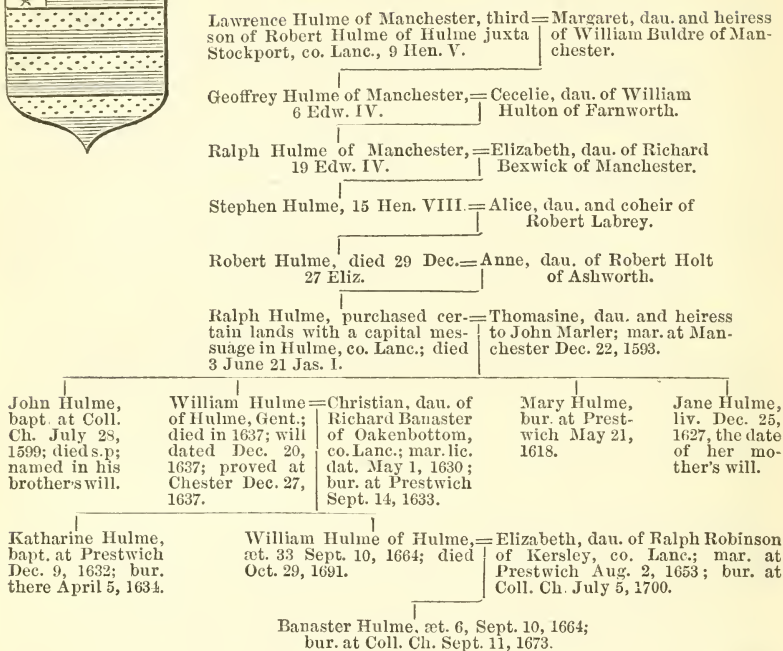
This is the latest statement given by the trustees to the public.

Hulme Hall is situated in the south-western corner of the township. It has been rebuilt of late years, and is now converted into a farm-house. Together with the demesne it seems to have received its designation of Hulme from the name of its owners and occupiers. In 1578 the tithes of "Hulme near Stopforde," and in 1635 of "Hulme near Stockport" were specially recorded as being conveyed to the Collegiate and Parish Church of Manchester as well as those of Reddish generally. The more modern name of the house is Broadstone Hall, by which designation, however, it was known as early as 1637.

¹ Report from the Select Committee on Manchester and Salford Education, vol. i. Appendix, pp. 477-481. See also "Some Account of the Educational Charity founded by William Hulme," by Alexander Kay, Manchester, 1855.



Hulme of Reddish.



For several generations a family of some position named Stanley was resident in the township.

By an undated deed, Thomas le Hermyte de Stokeporte and Margaret, daughter of Robert de Standleye, convey one messuage and lands in Denton, certain lands in Redich called Egecroft, and other specified lands. The name of the individual to whom the conveyance is made is not given in the abstract.

This Robert de Standleye may possibly have been ancestor to a family of that name residing in Reddish at a later period, in the reign of Elizabeth. From certain depositions taken at Chester in 1603, it appears that William Standley of Reddish in Manchester

parish did, by his last will, after payment of certain legacies, give all the rest of his goods unto Margaret his wife, whom he appointed sole executrix. Attached to these depositions is a letter to Chancellor Yate from Mr. Richardson, Dean of Manchester, stating that Margaret Standleye aforesaid is so impotent and aged that she was not able to travaile to Warrington much lesse to Chester. Their actual place of residence was Woodhall in Reddish, in the south-east corner of the township, overlooking the river Tame, about one mile north of Stockport. They were probably tenants of the Reddish family, and not absolute owners of the estate. Woodhall was held in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) by one William Nicholson under a lease from Richard Holland of Denton Esq., who had married the widow of John Reddish Esq. In that year Nicholson as lessee entered an action in the Duchy Court of Lancaster against Alexander Reddish Esq., eldest son and heir of the aforesaid John Reddish. The premises in dispute were "a messuage called The Woodhall and the lands and appurtenances therewith held," situated in Reddish.

Connected with the foregoing, though in what degree of affinity does not appear, was Edward Stanley gent., resident at Woodhall in Reddish in the reign of Charles I. In 1642 he was present at the siege of Manchester, taking part with the parliamentarians, who then held the town against the Earl of Derby. He was severely wounded in the enterprise, and died without making any formal disposition of his estate. The following nuncupative will, attested by the depositions of witnesses, is derived from the Bishop's Registry at Chester:—Mem. That in or about the monethes of September or October anno Dñi 1642 Edward Stanley of Redditch in the parish of Manchester and county of Lancaster and diocese of Chester gent. deceased, being in perfect health and of good memory, yet being a souldier and to goe upon service, and therefore mindfull of mortality and the casualties of warre, did make and declare his last will in words without writing, in manner and forme followinge, That is to say, Hee did give his estate, goodes and whatsoever he held to his sister Anne Goddart and to his

sister Alice Holme and her children, or to that or the like effect, in pⁿce of credible witnesses, and afterwards departed this life.

DEPOSITIONS.

Deposition of wytnnesses sworne and exaied upon the last Will and Testam^t nuncupative of Edward Stanley late of Redditch in the p^rishe of Manchester in y^e countie of Lancast^r and diocese of Chest^r gent. deceased, taken the xxth day of August Año Dñi 1646 by Edward Woolmer of fflixton in y^e sayd countie of Lancast^r clerke, by vertue of a Coission to him and others directed from y^e Right Worshipfull Edmund Mainwaringe, Doctor of Civill Lawe and Chauncellor of y^e Consistoriall Court att Chest^r, bearinge date y^e xiiijth day of August 1646, as followeth : —

Mary Hullme of Woodhall in Redditch in the p^rishe of Manchest^r and countie of Lancast^r, of the age of three score and fower yeares or thereabouts, sworne and exaied, sayth, — That she the sayd Mary Hullme did well knowe and had long knowne him the sayd Edward Stanley before his death; he the sayd Edward Stanley and his father lyvinge in one howse togeather wth her and her husband : And this dep^ent sayth that in or about y^e moneth of September to her best remembrance, when y^e Earle of Derby came against Manchester to besiege y^e towne, he the sayd Edward Stanley havinge a purpose amongst others his neyghbors to goe into Manchester for y^e defence and ayde of the sayd towne, did before he went, beinge in p^rfect health and good memorie, in the p^rsence of and before this dep^ent and her husband James Hullme (scythence deceased) freely and of his own meere accord make knowne, declare and publish to this depon^t and her husband, That yf it did please God he were slayne, or did otherwyse dye, his minde and will was and he did then freely and absolutely give all his whole estate in moneyes and goodes and whatsoever he had unto his twoe sist^{rs} Anne Goddart and Alles Hullme and her children. And further this depon^t sayth, That before the sayd Edward Stanley went forth of y^e howse towards Manchester, he told her and her husband of a certaine box w^{ch} he had hid w^{ch} yf they did finde it there was that

in it would doe them goode. And this depon^t both then and after his returne from Manchester and before he dyed moved the sayd Edward Stanley to remember his sister Mary wyfe of Robert Chorleton of Wythington and her children; but he answered this depon^t y^t the sayd Robert Chorleton should never have anythinge of his. And when this depon^t spake to him againe and desired him to be good to his sister Mary and her children he went his way and gave her never a worde, and not longe tyme after dyed. Seythence which tyme this depon^t never heard that the sayd Edward Stanley ever made any other disposition of his goodes and estate. (Signed)

MARY HULLME + the sayd deponents marke.

Item Theophilus Nieholson of Redditeh in the countie of Lancast^r yeoman, of the age of thirtie fowre yeares or thereabouts, sworne and examined sayth y^t Mary Hullme of Redditeh afore-sayde did in the p^senee of the sayd Theophilus Nieholson declare that Mr. Edward Stanley late of Redditeh deceased had given and disposed his whole estate to his twoe sisters Anne Goddart and Alles Hulme and her children, and that James Hullme husband to the sayd Mary, being then and there by, did affirme and aver the same. (Signed)

THEOPHILUS NICHOLSON.

The name of another member of this family, William Stanley of Woodhall gent., whose sympathies appear to have been on the side of the royalists, occurs in the list of those in 1646 compounding for their estates; this he did by the payment of £46 13s.

TOWNSHIP OF LEVENSHULME.

Levenshulme is a township in Manchester parish, lying three miles south-east of Manchester. It is bounded on the north by Gorton and Rusholme, on the south by Burnage and Heaton Norris, on the east by Reddish, and on the west by Rusholme. The orthography of the name has varied at different periods, being written Lywensholme, Lewonshulme, Lerwonesholme, Lamsholme, Leysholme, Lensholme, Lentsholme, Lavonsholme, Levensholme, Leyvenshulme, Leinshulme, &c. From the sign of the possessive case, the first syllable would seem to indicate the name of the first colonist or early proprietor, whilst the suffix "holme" or "hulme" signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a flat area by the side of a stream or river, occasionally submerged by floods; or the name "Leven" may be derived (for in the etymology of words much is left to conjecture) from a brook intersecting the township, which may at one time have received the name "Leven," as did certain rivers in Cumberland, Dumbarton, Fife, &c., signifying in the Celtic "smooth." It is worthy of remark that of the four townships within Manchester parish terminating in "holme," three abut upon each other; thus Kirkmanshulme borders on Rusholme, and Rusholme on Levenshulme.

The annals of this township are of the scantiest and most meagre description, no family of note having at any time resided there; scattered farm-houses and a few isolated cottages bordering upon the old Stockport lane (for road it could not then be called) constituting the entire township.

In the Survey of Manchester in 1322 we find the tenants of Lywensholme referred to the Lower Bailiwick of Manchester, and paying their proportion to the maintenance of the bailiffs and under-bailiffs of the manor.

The earliest landed proprietors in the township of whom any record now remains were the family of Legh of Baguley in the county of Chester, who were chief if not exclusive lords of the soil.

Sir John Legh of Baguley Knt., son and heir of Edmund Legh Esq. and Margery his wife, married Ellen, daughter of Sir William Booth of Dunham Massey in the 6 Edward IV. (1466). Besides lawful issue he had an illegitimate son, John Legh, living in the 21 Henry VII. (1505), on whom he settled a tenement in Levenshulme as an annuity for his life.¹

In the 19 Elizabeth (1576) Margaret Vaudrey, claiming by conveyance from Edward Legh, enters an action at Lancaster against Robert Shelmerdyne, John Smythe, Henry Tymperley, James Bowker and others as lessees of William Radcliffe, the matter in dispute being certain messuages and lands in Levenshulme. From this it may be inferred that the Radcliffe family, though what branch does not appear, possessed also at this time an interest in the township. Two years later another suit was commenced by the same plaintiff against Henry Brome, Thomas Holme, John Glossoppe, James Shelmerdyne and others in relation to similar premises in Levenshulme. From the pedigree of Legh it appears that Margaret Vaudrey, daughter of Robert Vaudrey of Riddings in Timperly gent., became the second wife of Edward Legh of Baguley Esq., who died in 1607. This, however, could scarcely be the plaintiff in the above-mentioned suits, since in 1584, in a subsequent action, she is associated with one John Coppoeke, and three years later in certain legal proceedings before the same court she is styled Margaret Coppoeke, otherwise Vaudrey, implying that a marriage had taken place between herself and Coppoeke. She would doubtless be of the same family as the wife of Edward Legh, if not actually his wife.

Other lands in the township form in part the endowment of Gorton Episcopal Chapel. These were purchased in 1734 by subscription of the inhabitants of Gorton, aided by a grant from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. This estate also belonged originally to the family of Legh, but was conveyed in 1620 by Richard Legh of Baguley Esq. and Henry, his eldest son and heir to John Thorpe of Levenshulme; from his grandson it passed to

¹ Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, vol. i. p. 416.

Obadiah Hulme of Reddish, chapman, whose son Samuel Hulme disposed of it to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the purpose already indicated.

About the middle of the seventeenth century the Manchester family of Gilliam appears among the landed proprietors in the township. John Gilliam gent., who is described as of Levenshulme, was son and heir of John Gilliam of the same place Esq. (a captain in the parliamentary interest and justice of the peace). He was baptised at Littleborough July 2, 1658, and married Jane, daughter of Thomas Percival of Royton gent. By will dated June 18, 1688, and proved at Chester October 26 in the same year, he left many legacies for charitable purposes, and settled his very large estates in Newton, Droylsden, Failsworth, Fallowfield, Horsedge, Oldham, Crompton, Heaton Norris, Levenshulm otherwise Leyvenshulme otherwise Leynshulme, Westleigh, Hindley, Woodhouses in the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne, Barton-upon-Irwell, Reddival and Pinnington on his only child Jane Gilliam, who subsequently married John Greaves of Culcheth Esq. High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1733.¹ Mr. Gilliam of Levenshulme was in the number of those gentlemen summoned in 1664 by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, to register their descents and to justify their titles to such coats of arms and crests as they usually bear.

The earliest Population Returns for Levenshulme are in 1774, in which year there were 55 houses tenanted by 56 families or 280 individuals, of whom one hundred and five were under the age of 15; thirty-six above 50; seven above 60; and six above 70.

In 1801 the inhabitants numbered 628; in 1811, 674; in 1821, 768; in 1831, 1,086; in 1841, 1,231; and in 1851, 1,902.

In 1655 there were 25 persons in the township rated to the relief of the poor, and the amount of rate collected for the six months ending November 25 was £7. Amongst the ratepayers were Thurstan Peake; John Hobson, draper; John Hobson, swaler [corn-miller]; Alexander and Ralph Bowerhouse; John Glossop,

¹ *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. ii. part i. pp. 91, 92.

and John Shelmerdine. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £422 6s. 11d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in Levenshulme, as assessed to the land-tax, was £154; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,340; in 1829, £3,316; in 1841, £6,056; and in 1853, £7,342.

The superficial area of the township, as given in 1831 by Mr. Rickman, is 1,050 acres; in the Census Returns of 1851 it is reduced to 605 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son's Survey in 1818 estimates it at 602 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 602 acres. In 1835 the number of county voters in Levenshulme was 32. In 1844 the landowners in the township numbered forty-nine; of these the principal were —

	A.	R.	P.
Grimshaw, Samuel	59	3	27
Greaves, John	51	0	22
Walker, John Goldie	43	0	28
Glendinning, Alexander	36	1	29
Heywood, Miss	31	1	18
Coston, Thomas	30	1	4
Bostock, John, Trustees of.....	28	3	17
Hobson, John	26	1	0
Gorton Chapel, Incumbent of.....	26	0	36
Worsley, Thomas Carill	25	1	27
Todd, Rev. Thomas.....	15	3	35
Manchester and Birmingham Rail- way Company	8	0	23

Assuming the total area of the township to be 602 acres it was thus divided: — Arable land, 16 acres; meadow and pasture land, 576 acres; buildings, 10 acres. A branch of the London and North Western Railway passes through the township.

Ecclesiastically considered, Levenshulme is situated in the parish of Manchester, and has from the earliest times owned its relationship by the payment of tithe.

Though here included as a part of the ancient chapelry of Didsbury, no better reason can be assigned for such classification than

its annexation to Heaton Norris on the severance of that township from Didsbury chapel in 1765, at which time Heaton Norris, separated from Didsbury and united to Reddish and Levenshulme, was constituted a distinct ecclesiastical district under the then recently-erected chapel of St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris. In the charters of the Collegiate Church mention is made in 1556 of the tithes of "Leysholme," in 1578 of "Lensholme," and in 1635 of "Lentsholme." In the 9 of Elizabeth (1566) Alexander Barlow Esq., as farmer or tenant to the Guardian (Warden) and Chaplains of the College of Manchester, sues Thomas Herle, Guardian of the said college, for some breach of contract in relation to the tithes of Levensholme and other hamlets within the parish of Manchester. A later lessee was Laurence Crowther, who in 1678 sued William Bradshaw of Blackley and William Bayley of Levensholme, in the Ecclesiastical Court of Chester for "subtraction or detention of tythes or other ecclesiastical rights" to him appertaining as "farmer or lawful possessor of the tithes belonging to the rectory or parish church of Manchester." Their offence had this further feature of aggravation, that they had also "contemned and disobeyed the process and proceedings of the said court of this diocese by not appearing at days and times appointed, being thereunto lawfully cited." In 1701 the tithes of the township were leased to Jo. Coppock for £7 per annum. In 1848 the rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same area payable to the Dean and Canons of Manchester was £60.

In December 1853 efforts were made to procure a subdivision of the now over-populated ecclesiastical district of St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris, by separating Levenshulme, and constituting it a distinct and independent district. To this end a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting a school-room in the township, intended as the nucleus of a future church. A site was given by Charles Carill Worsley Esq. of Platt, and the structure was completed at a cost of £1,200; a residence for the master is also included in the design. The school is sufficiently large to accommodate 400 children. Towards its erection the National

Society and the Committee of Council on Education have contributed to the extent of £494. Mr. Worsley has also given a site for a church and parsonage-house, both already conveyed; and it is expected the building of a church will shortly be commenced.

The Wesleyans have a small chapel in the village.

There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel in Levenshulme, and a house lately given by Mr. Grimshaw of Buxton to a sisterhood of that communion. Attached to the mission is a house for the use of the priest.

A school and school-house formerly stood on a piece of waste ground in this township, upon which there was the following inscription:—“This school was erected and endowed by Thomas Fletcher, Mary Dickinson, John Siddall and other charitable benefactors A.D. 1754;” but the Charity Commissioners in their enquiry in 1826 could not discover that there were ever any documents in the township relating to this school, or that there was ever any permanent income appropriated to its support; a sum of £5 a year formerly paid to the master by Mr. Collier, a Quaker, then living at Stockport, but who was then dead, being believed by them to have been a voluntary payment.

At a vestry meeting of the township held September 29, 1823, it was resolved that a contract should be made with the Commissioners of the Manchester and Buxton turnpike road for the sale of the above-mentioned school and school-house, by Messrs. John Gray, Thomas Bibby and John Walker, who were thereby empowered to treat with the said commissioners, and with the advice of select vestry to purchase a piece of land in fee-simple and to erect thereon a convenient school and school-house, and other requisite buildings on the most economical plan, and that the same should be vested in trustees to be thereafter named. On the 21st of October 1823, the three persons above-named reported that they had sold the old school for £150, and it was resolved that Thomas Bibby and John Haughton should superintend the taking down the school and depositing the materials in proper places. On the 30th of October 1823, it was resolved that the new school and

school-houses should be erected by subscription, in addition to the present fund, and that trustees should be elected by subscribers of £2 each.

The sum of £150, for which the premises were sold, was received by Mr. John Gray. A misunderstanding afterwards arose between him and the two other persons above-mentioned, with respect to the building a new school-house, under the following circumstances : A piece of land containing 396 square yards was given by James Wilde Esq. for the purpose of building a school thereon, and was conveyed for a nominal consideration to Messrs. Gray, Walker and Bibby, in fee-simple, by indentures of lease and release dated 26th and 27th of March 1824 ; the trusts upon which the land was given are not, however, expressed in the conveyance. Upon these premises Mr. Gray was anxious that a school should be built, the expenses of which were estimated at £340. Early in the year 1825 Mr. John Haughton, a builder in Levenshulme, purchased of his own accord a piece of ground containing about 500 square yards, subject to a rent of one penny a square yard, and built a school and house thereon, at his own expense, with the assistance of such of the materials of the old school as were capable of being used for the purpose ; and having incurred this expense he became desirous that the inhabitants of the township should purchase this land and the buildings erected thereon at the price which they respectively cost him. There was some dispute as to the sum for which Mr. Haughton should give credit, in respect of the materials of the old school used by him as above-mentioned, and which were originally valued at £50 ; but the principal subject of dispute was whether the premises on which Mr. Haughton has built should be purchased, or whether a new school should be built on the land given by Mr. Wilde. Mr. Gray insisted upon the adoption of the latter against the opinion of the two other persons appointed by the township to act with him, they being anxious to purchase the premises of Mr. Haughton, and to give back to Mr. Wilde the land conveyed to trustees by him as above-mentioned.

In consequence of these disputes, Mr. Briddon was appointed

treasurer at a vestry meeting held August 11, 1824, but Mr. Gray has refused to pay over to him the money deposited in his hands, stating that he was ready to lay it out in building a school according to the original intentions of the vestry held in 1823, and the money was placed in Mr. Gray's name in the bank of Messrs. Jones Loyd and Co.

It appeared to the Charity Commissioners during their inquiry that as the inhabitants of the township were the proper judges of the mode in which the money should be laid out for the purpose of building a school in lieu of that which was erected in 1754, and as Mr. Gray had engaged to pay over the money in his hands in such manner as he should be advised by the Commissioners, it was expedient that a town's meeting should be held for the purpose of determining in what manner the money should be laid out, which accordingly was done; and at a meeting held March 1, 1826, it was resolved—

I. That the resolution passed at a public town's meeting held August 11, 1824, appointing Mr. Abram Briddon, treasurer of the Levenshulme school-fund, should be confirmed.

II. That a public town's meeting should be held on the 13th of March, to take into consideration the state of the Levenshulme school-fund.

This meeting also was held, six persons being present, of whom Mr. John Haughton was one, and it appearing that Mr. John Gray not having paid over to Mr. Abram Briddon, the treasurer of the Levenshulme school-fund, the money in his hands, a representation to that effect was made to the Commissioners, who, thinking that the question recommended to the consideration of the town's meeting had not been brought under discussion, recommended that it should be considered at another meeting.¹

The later proceedings in this disputed case are not known in detail, the book being lost in which were recorded the decision of the inhabitants in vestry assembled. Mr. Haughton's offer was not, however, accepted by the trustees, who erected instead a suitable

¹ Charity Commission Reports, vol. 16, pp. 199-200.

building on the site given by Mr. Wilde. Some years afterwards a Mechanics' Institution was commenced in the township, and the promoters availed themselves of this building as the place for their meeting as well as for the general purposes of the institution; but being found, in process of time, inconveniently small, a new structure was determined on, and it was resolved to incorporate with the new institution the existing schools. Accordingly in the year 1854 the building was commenced, which is already completed, and bears the name "Levenshulme Mechanics' Institution and Schools." The school-building thus deserted is now claimed by the Wesleyans, whose only plea is the permission, of late years accorded to them by the township, of using the school as a chapel on Sundays, and out of school hours during the remainder of the week. The intervention of the Charity Commissioners has been again sought, and the matter is now under consideration.



Rowley & Brown delit. Mearns

Chorlton Chapel,

TAKEN DOWN IN 1779.

Drawn & Engraved by James Frost

CHORLTON CHAPEL

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT CHAPEL OF CHORLTON.



HORLTON township lies four miles south-west of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Stretford; on the south by the river Mersey, which there divides the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Withington and Didsbury; and on the west by Stretford and the river Mersey. The name was anciently written, as chance seemed to direct, Charlton, Charleton, Cherlton, Chereleton, Chorleton, Chourlton, Chourton, Chowerton, Chowreton, Chorllerton, Chollerton, Cholreton, Chowlerton, &c. Whitaker derives it from *Cheorl*, a Saxon appellative, and *tun* a town or township.

There are two hamlets in Manchester parish bearing this designation, the one known as Chorlton-row or roe, i.e. the Chorlton adjoining the old Roman row or road to Buxton, called also Chorlton-upon-Medlock as being situated on the river of that name,¹ and the other, the township of which it is now proposed to treat,

¹ Of the signification of the name *Medlock*, Whitaker thus writes: *Med* or *Mat*, and *Lug* or *Loc*, equally signify water: and, in composition, imply a quantity of it, either a river or a lake. The former constitutes half the name of the famous Med-way and the latter forms the whole of it in the Loxa of Scotland and the Logia of Ireland, the Lug of Herefordshire, the Lucus of Liguria in ancient Italy, the Locke of Somersetshire, and the great variety of Lochs in Ireland and Scotland. — Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. i. p. 290, second edition.

found associated at the present day with the adjacent small hamlet of Hardy, under the distinguishing name of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. In the name of its adjunct, Hardy, we have a record transmitted of the primitive features of Manchester and its neighbourhood when encompassed by an all but impenetrable forest. Speaking of the less-extended forest in the centre of which the British Mancenion and the Roman-British Mancunium stood, Whitaker adds, "The south side [of the parish] peculiarly retained the name of Arden [or great wood] for ages, as I have previously shown; and was latterly broken into the thickets that gave denomination to Openshaw, Blackbrook and Blackstakes, into Ashton-hurst and Heaton-wood, and the large grove that winded along the bank of the Mersey, and imparted the name of Hard-ey or Hardy to a range of meadows upon it."¹

Chorlton was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester, and its tenants were required to contribute to the maintenance of the lord's bailiff or sergeant and that of a boy, a horse and four under-bailiffs, supplying to the chief sergeant, when he shall come there, bread, ale, victuals and other things necessary, according to the season; and for his boy and the four under-bailiffs such food as they are accustomed to provide in the house, and provender for his horse, on notice of their coming.

The boundary-line enclosing the manor of Manchester passed "between Stretford and Chollerton (which is a member of Withington) as far as Molsfrellach; and following that as far as into Withenton clou, and from thence going between Withenton clou and Trafford as far as the bounds of Chorlton, and following that between Chorlton and Trafford into le Cornbrook."

In the 15 Edward III. (1341) a commission was issued granting powers to certain individuals named therein to levy a ninth of corn, wool and lambs in every parish according to the value upon which churches were taxed (Pope Nicholas's Valor and Taxatio) if the value of the ninth amounted to as much as the tax, and to levy more where the true value of the ninth should be found to

¹ Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 111, second edition.

exceed the tax. To gain correct information of these facts they were directed to take inquisitions upon oath of the residents in every parish. This commission originated "in regard to the will which the king their liege lord hath towards his subjects, and to the great travailes that he hath made and sustained as well in his wars of Scotland as against the parts of France and other places, and to the good-will which he hath to travail to keep his realm and maintain his wars and to purchase his rights. Having regard to this they have granted to him the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece and the ninth sheaf; and of cities and boroughs the ninth part of all their goods and chattels." The commission met at Preston, and the amount decreed to be paid by Chorlton was ten shillings. The only other townships named in Manchester parish are Salford-eum-Burghtoun (Broughton) lijs, Chetham xs, Hulm near Manchester xs, Stretford xlvjs viij^d, Redyche lijs iiij^d; exhibiting their relative importance at that early period. The total tax upon Manchester was xxij marks (£14 13s. 4d.)¹

The earliest of the landed proprietors in Chorlton of whom any notice now remains was the family which hence derives its name. In the 12 Stephen (1148) Gospatric de Chorlton granted lands in Chorlton and Beswiek to the Abbey of Cokersand.² About a century later we find the Abbot of Cokersand claiming in Cherlton and Wythington the privilege of waifs, infangenthef and the assize of bread and ale, which was resisted by the officers of the crown, and on being cited to substantiate his claim the evidence adduced in its support being insufficient to satisfy the inquisitors, they pronounced against him.³

By a deed undated but probably executed some time before 1290, Gospatric de Choreton gives to his brother Adam, "who is about to fight for me against William son of Wulfrith de Withinton to secure my right to my estate in Chorlton" (ad salvand jus meū de Choreton), one eighth part of Chorlton. This deed is witnessed by Robert de Burom, Henry de Chetham, Ralph

¹ Nonarum Inquisitiones.

² Kuerden's *MSS.* in the College of Arms.

³ *Placita de Quo Warranto Rolls*, fol. 379.

de Moston, Jordan le Norreys, Henry de Trafford, &c. In the original, of which this is an abstract included in the *Harl. MSS.* (cod. 2112, fo. 165), the bounds of the land so conveyed are specified.

In the reign of Edward I. Gospatric de Chereleton held two carucates of land in Cherleton as tenant in chief of the king, in thanage, a service dating from Saxon times, and by the payment of twenty shillings.¹ Henry de Chetham held also in the same reign four bovates of land direct from the king by the same service and the payment of five shillings.² Matthew, son of William, is also named as a tenant holding four bovates of the king by knight's service. He claimed as having performed the stipulated service in the war then brought to a close.³ William de Bothelton also held one bovat from the king, his heir being in the king's custody.⁴ Adam de Chorleton also held from the aforesaid Gospatric two bovates by the payment of forty-one pence.⁵ In the Survey of the manor of Manchester, taken 15 Edward II. (1322), it is stated that Thomas de Chorlton has seven acres of heath-land in Green Lowe Marsh in Gorton by a certain assize of novel disseisin, but it may be leased as part of the land of the tenants. In the same return the said Thomas is represented as holding a cottage in Ardwick without rent on account of its being promised to be leased.

Scarcely inferior in antiquity of tenure were the Traffords of Trafford.

Henry de Trafford held five bovates of land in the township in the reign of Edward I. by the payment of six shillings and three-pence;⁶ and an undated deed of perhaps a yet earlier period records

¹ Gospatric de Chereleton tenet ij caruc' in Cherleton in capite de d'no Rege in thanag' p' xx sol'. — *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 405.

² Henr. de Chetham tenet iiij bovat' in capite de d'no Rege in thenagio p' v sol'. — *Ibid.*

³ Math's fil. Will'i tenet de eodem iiij^{or} bovat' quas disr'onavit p' finē Belli. — *Ibid.*

⁴ Will's de Bothelton tenuit unam bovat' in capite de d'no Rege in feodi firma heres ej' est in custodia d'ni Reg'. — *Ibid.*

⁵ Adam de Chorleton tenet de ip'o Gospatric ij bovat' p' xij den'. — *Ibid.*

⁶ *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fol. 137.

a grant from Gospatric de Cherletona to Henry, son of Robert, son of Ralph de Trafford, of one fourth part of Chorlton, namely four bovates of land with appurtenances; to wit two bovates which Ranulph held, one bovatē which Steinulph held, and one bovatē which Robert, son of Edwin held, with all woods, plains, pastures, clearings, mills, &c., and all liberties and easements to that township belonging: to hold the same to himself and his heirs from him, the said Gospatric and his heirs on payment of five shillings per annum, namely fifteen pence at the Nativity, fifteen pence at Easter, fifteen pence at the feast of John the Baptist, and fifteen pence at the feast of St. Michael. This deed is witnessed by Roger de Burun, Orm de Astun, Robert de Burun, Matthew de Redish, William de Radcliffe, Roger de Middleton, Adam de Buri, Gilbert de Notona, William his son, Geoffrey de Burun, Hugh de Stretford, Alexander de Pilkinton, Matthew de Glothet, Hugh de Soresworth and Robert his brother, Robert, son of Hugh de Mascy, &c.¹

The name of Henry de Trafford occurs also in the rent-roll of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, dated 10 Edward II. (1316),² as the Earl's tenant for lands within the township, paying annually a rent of five shillings. Other tenants within the township were Richard Pilkinton, who paid to the Earl twenty shillings, and

¹ Sciānt omēs &c. q^d ego Gospat'cus de Chereltona dedi &c. Henr. filio Rob. filii Rad. de T'ford p' homagio & servicio suo totam quartam partem de Chereltona, scil. quatuor bovatas t're cū o'ibz p'tin, duas scil. q's Ranulf tenuit & unā bovatom q^m Steinnulf tenuit & unā bovatom q^m Rob. fil. Edwini tenuit, in bosco & plano in pas. & pascuis & in assartis in molendinis & in o'ibz lib'tat'bz & aisiamentis ad eādem villam spectantibz illi & hēdibz suis tenendas de me et de meis heredibz; annuatim inde reddendo qnq' solidos argenti scil. xv denar' ad nat. d'ni & xv denar' ad paschā & xv denar' ad fest beat. Johis baptiste & xv denar' ad fest s'cī Michael. Hiis testibz Rogō de Buron; Orm de Astun; Rob. burun; Math'o de Redich; Will. de Radecl.; Rogō de Middilton; Ada. de Buri; Gileb. de Notona; Will'mo fil. suo; Galfr. de Burun; hug. de Stretford; Alex. de Pilkintona; Math'o de Glothet; hug. de Soresworth; Rob'to frē suo; Rob. fil. hug. de Masci & multis aliis.—*Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxv. p. 89. Seal—white paste, bearing a fleur-de-lis: legend—"Sig..... De Chorltnv."

² *Harl. MSS.* 2085, fol. 528.

Richard de Byrom, whose lands were assessed at twenty-four shillings.

From the rental of Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, dated May 1, 1473, it appears that Henry Trafford, son and heir of Thomas Trafford, holds divers messuages with appurtenances in Chorlton of the said lord in soccage, and grinds his corn at the mill of Manchester, and pays a yearly rent of six shillings. Bartrin Trafford holds the other half of the two aforesaid messuages of the said lord by the same service, and grinds his corn at the said mill, and pays a yearly rent of three shillings and fourpence. The same Henry Trafford holds a close called Gatecote-fields of the said lord by the same service, and pays a yearly rent of two shillings. In the 5 Henry VIII. (1513) Edmund Trafford, as appears from an inquisition p.m. of that date, died seised of lands in the township. Other inquisitions carry us down to the close of the century, Sir Edmund Trafford 21 Henry VIII (1529), Sir Edmund Trafford 6 Elizabeth (1563) and Sir Edmund Trafford 32 Elizabeth (1589), all of whom retained their landed interest in Chorlton.

In the 16 Henry VIII. (1524) Edmund Trafford and others were prosecuted in the Duchy Court by Margaret Bexwik widow, in relation to a disputed title to houses and biggings [buildings], lands, woods and appurtenances in Chorlton manor.

In the 33 Henry VIII. (1541) Margaret Trafford, widow of Sir Edmund Trafford, enters an action in the same court against Ralph Trafford and others for assault and forcible entry on a house called "The Garrett" at Manchester and a mill at Chorlton.

In the 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1554-5) the same premises form the subject of litigation in a suit between Gilbert Gerard, Thomas Leighe and Isabel his wife plaintiffs, and Sir Edmund Trafford Knt., Henry Trafford clerk and others defendants; the lands, &c. in Chorlton are described as the Myllfeld close.

In the 9 Elizabeth (1566) Edmund Trafford and Nicholas Langford submit to arbitration their respectively asserted claims to the wastes of Didesbery, Withington and Chorlton. Seven

years later, in 1573, Edmund Trafford is defendant in a suit instituted against him by Thomas Leigh touching a certain messuage and lands near Buttlers Lane and Trafforde Mosse in Chorleton manor.

The Traffords were possessed of large landed estates in Chorlton-on-Medlock also, as well as in Chorlton-cum-Hardy; and, as in the last-recited deeds the name given is simply Chorlton, the allusion may possibly be to the former hamlet. This indeed seems probable, especially in the deed which recites the claim of suit urged by Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, in respect of his corn-mill in Manchester, since we find from an earlier deed that the Chorlton-cum-Hardy tenants were under a similar obligation to grind at their lord's mill at Didsbury. The deed in question is undated, but was executed about the year 1280; it is endorsed, "Tenants of Chollerton owe a rent to Didsbury Milne," and is to the following effect: Sir Simon de Gousul, knight, releases &c. to Henry de Trafford his heirs and assigns the homage of the said Henry and his heirs, together with the several annual rents which the said Henry owes for all the lands he holds of him in divers places within the fee of Withington. He releases, moreover, and quitclaims to the said Henry &c. the suit payable by his Chorlton tenants, in respect of his (Sir Simon's) mill at Didsbury, all services, exactions &c., of what nature soever, to which the said Henry might be liable,—the said Henry rendering homage therefor to the chief lord of Manchester, and paying to him yearly at the feast of St. Michael one pair of gloves and one penny.¹

¹ O'ibȝ Xpi &c. Symon de Gousul miles salutem in d'no. Noveritis me remisisse &c. Henrico de Trafford et hēdȝ suis & ass' homag' d'eti Henr. & hered' suor' una cum totū redditū q^m idem Henric. michi. reddē debet & assuet' annuat' p' o'ibȝ terris & tenem suis q' de me tenuit in locis diversis in feodo de Withinton. Remisi insuper & omnino quiete clam' eidem Hen'co &c. sectam molendini mei in Didisburi de om'ibȝ hominibȝ suis de Chollerton & emendacon reparacon & facturam stang^m p'd'ei molendini & omnimodo servicia exaccōnes &c. nōiatas & non nōiatas in quibȝ d'et' Henr. &c.; faciendo in homagiū d'no capitali Mancestr' et redd' ei ann' ad fest S. Mich. unū par chyrocer' et unū denar' p' o'bȝ serv' &c. Hiis testibȝ D'no Galfr'o de Bracebrigg milit; Galfr. de Chaderton: Ric'o de Radeclive; Ric'o de Moston:

Another of the more ancient proprietors was Elias Entwissell of Entwissell manor near Bolton, who, as appears from the rental of Thomas Lord De la Warre, held in 1473 one messuage with appurtenances, in Chorleton, of the said lord in soccage and by a yearly rent of three shillings and fourpence. Edmund Entwissell who died 36 Henry VIII. (1544) was seised at his death of the messuage, &c. in question, which, at a later period (1576), was litigated by Edward Tildesley and Alexander Entwissell.

Other land-owners were Edward Tildesley Esq., only son of Thurstan Tildesley of Tildesley Esq. by his second wife Jane, daughter of Ralph Langton, Baron of Newton, whose inquisition p. m. is dated 29 Elizabeth (1586),—and Gregorie Lovell, described as cofferer to the queen's household, who in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) claimed by conveyance from Sir Edmund Trafford messuages and lands on Chowerton moor. In the 41 Elizabeth (1598) Sir Robert Lovell Knight, eldest son of the above-mentioned Gregorie, claiming by inheritance, maintains his right to certain lands, &c., in the township against John Trafford, Roger Dudill and others.

In this same year the exclusive right of digging "marle clodds and turves on Chowerton more" was asserted by Nicholas Langford, who, by an action at Lancaster, sought to protect himself against William Barlowe, James Brownehill, Laurence Baguley, Edmund Hunte and Richard Chorlton, who claimed participation. The manorial rights of Withington (including Chorlton) appear to have passed about this time to the Mosley family.

In the 43 Elizabeth (1600) Rowland Mosley Esq. as "Lord of the Manors of Didsburye and Wythington" prosecutes Alexander Barlow Esq., a "charterer and freeholder," for incroachments on divers parcels of the common and waste grounds called Didsburye moor and Chorlton, otherwise Chollerton moor, a capital messuage called Barlowe Hall and the demesne lands called "The Henbutts."

Rob'to de Shorisworth; Jordano de Crompton et multis aliis. — *Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv. p. 87. Seal—green wax very perfect; legend—"Sigil Joh'is(?) De Gousil."

Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who died in 1614, and Rowland Mosley Esq. his son, who died in 1617, were both seised of lands in Chorlton township.

A portion of the township received the name of Barlow at a very early period, which designation is thought by Whitaker to mark the locality as a favoured haunt of the wild boar at a time when animals of chase overspread the country not yet disafforested. "The wild bull," he says, "had its residence in our Mancunian Arden, and even continued in one part of the thickets of Blackley as late as the fourteenth century; and the boar roving at liberty over the woods of the parish for many centuries after the Roman departure from the station consigned the appellation of *Barlow* or the *Boar-ground* to a district in the south-westerly parts of it."¹

From this neighbourhood a family of considerable note and of long association with the township took its name. Barlow Hall was the residence of Sir Robert de Barlow in the reign of Edward I.

By an undated deed Alexander, son of William Albinus of Sale, grants to Thomas de Barlow all his lands, &c., in Barlow. This deed is witnessed by Geoffrey de Chetham, Richard de Trafford, William de Heton, William de Diddesbury, Richard de Chollerton, and others. By a second deed, also without date, Amicia, daughter of Roger de Barlow, gives to Roger, son of Thomas de Barlow, half a bovate of land in Barlow, the same which her father gave to her at her marriage.

Another deed of a similar date with the last conveys on the part of Alexander, minister (capellanus) of Didsbury, to the above-named Roger de Barlow the elder all his lands in Barlow, Chollerton, Harday in Withington, together with a water-mill there situated, with remainder to Thomas, son of Roger de Barlow and Marion his wife, &c.

In the 10 Edward III. (1336) a cause was decided at York, as it might seem, the deed in which it is recorded issuing from that city, between Roger de Barlow the elder, querent, and Robert de Cattelow chaplain, deforcient, of the manor of Barlow, and of five

¹ Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 115, second edition.

messuages, fifty acres of land, six acres of meadow with their appurtenances in Chollerton, and half the manor of Chollerton, &c. The deed confirms to the said Roger the possession of the lands in question for his life, with remainder to Roger his son and Agnes his son's wife, and to Roger, son of the said Roger and Agnes, and his heirs male, with remainder to Thurstan, brother of the aforesaid Henry [sic], with remainder to Thomas, son of Roger de Barlow the elder, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Roger Barlow the elder.

By a certificate from Lichfield, bearing date 1397, it is evidenced that Thomas de Barlow was sole and exclusive lord of Barlow, and that his father's name was Robert de Barlow; that the said Thomas had two sons, of whom the elder was named Roger and the younger Thomas; that the said Roger became in turn sole lord of Barlow after the decease of his father; and that he had a son by name Roger, who succeeded his father as lord of Barlow.

In the 14 Richard II. (1390) Robert Collayn gave to John, son of Roger de Barlow, for the term of his life all his messuages, lands, &c., in Barlow, Chollerton, &c., with remainder to John, son of John and the heirs of the body of the said John the younger and Joan, daughter of Richard de Holland. This deed is witnessed by John de Radcliffe de Chaderton, Adam de Lever jun., Richard de Redish, James de Barlow. John Barlow the younger was one of the inhabitants of Manchester parish summoned in 1422 by the sound of the bell to assemble for the purpose of expressing their concurrence in the proposal of Thomas De la Warre to found a Collegiate Church in Manchester.¹

A marriage-covenant between Richard de Ashton de Mersey Bank and Nicholas, son of John de Barlow;—Alexander, son and heir of the said Nicholas, to marry Elizabeth, daughter of the said Richard. The covenant is dated 13 Henry VI. (1434). In the 29 Henry VI. (1450) Nicholas, son of John de Barlow, and Alexander his son lease to George Barlow for the term of four years a certain close in Barlow; and in the 6 Edward IV. (1466)

¹ Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, p. 40.

he the said Nicholas conveys to his son Alexander all his lands, &c., in Withington and elsewhere in Lancashire, formerly belonging to John de Barlow, father of the aforesaid Nicholas.

In the 18 Edward IV. (1478) Alexander, son and heir of Nicholas Barlow, conveys on trust to John Radcliffe of Radcliffe and Thurstan Tildesley Esquires, James Hill, rector of Northenden, and Ralph Ashton, rector of Ashton, his manor of Barlow.¹ His

¹ These several particulars are derived from abstracts of family deeds included in the *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fol. 172-174.

Ex cartis Alexi Barlow de Barlow arⁱ Ap. 1653.

Fol. 172. Ego Alex. f. Wⁱ Albini de Sale dedi Tho. de Barlow tot. t'ram meā &c. in vil. de Barlow &c. Test. Dnō G. de Chetham; Ricō de Trafford; W^o de Heton; W^o Diddesbury; Ricō de Chollerton & al'. s. d.

Ego W^s f. Rob. de Aynsworth dedi Rogō f. Tho. de Barlow 1 bō t'ræ in Aynsworth &c. Test. Galfr. de Chetham; Rob. de Hulton; W^o de Heton; Rob. de Redish; Ricō de Trafford; Hug. de Trafford &c. s. d.

Ego Sybilla f. Uctredi & Marg^{tas} dedi Tho. de Barlow & hered' suis tot. t'ram meā in Barlow. Test. Rob. de Burun; Math. Redig.; Jordano Norewe; Hug. de Stretford; W^o de Chollerton. s. d.

Ego Amicia f. Rogi de Barlow dedi Rog. f. Tho. de Barlow dim. bō t'ræ in Barlow &c. q̄ p'r meus dedit mihi in lib. mar. Test. Galfr. de Chetham; Ric. de Trafford; W^o Norhais; Rog. de Pilkinton; Rob. de Astona; Tho. de Prestwich &c. s. d.

Amisia f. Rogi de Barlow qnd. ux' Ham. de Barlow dedi Tho. de Barlow & hered' suis tot. jus. in Barlow. Test. Dnō Galfr. de Chetham &c. s. d.

Ego Alex. cap^{lus} de Didsbury dedi Rog. de Barlow sen. tot. t'ram meā in Barlow, Chollerton, Harday in vil. de Withinton simul cū molend. aquatic. in ead. vil. rem. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow & Mariori uxī ejus &c. Test. Ricō de Hulton; Ricō de Workeslegh; Rob. de Aston; Tho. de Hulme; Ric. de Valentina & al'. s. d.

Roger Barlow & Mag'r. Ricūs de Trafford rector de Chedle 14 Edw. II.

Rog. f. Rog. de Barlow assignat Aliciæ q̄ fuit ux' Rogi de Barlow p'ris sui &c. in Barlow, Chollerton & Hardy. Dat. 13 Edw. III.

Rog. de Barlow sen. dedi Dnō Rob. de Cattelow cap^{lo} oīā man. ter. ten. &c. meā in Barlow &c. 7 Edw. III.

Int. Rog. de Barlow sen. quer. & Rob. de Cattelow cap^m def. de m. de Barlow ac. 5 mess., 50 aer. t'ræ, 6 ā p'ti cū p'tinen. in Chollerton & dim. m. de Chollerton &c.; h'end eid. Rog. &c. pro vita; rem. Rogō f. ejusd. Rogi & Agnet' ux' ejus & Rogō f. eord. Rogi & Agnet' & hæ. masc. ip'ius Rogi fil. eord. Rogi & Agnet' & hæd. masc.; rem. Thurstano fr'i ejusd. Hener. [sic]; rem. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow sen.; rem. r'cis hered' d'ci Rogi Barlow sen. Dat. ap^d Ebor. 10 Edw. III.

Fol. 173. Rog. de Barlow f. Rogi de Barlow dedi Rogō f. Rob. de Barlow & hæd. tot. jus. in Barlow. Test. Jō de Burun; Rog'o de Midleton; W^o de Hopwood; Ad. de Prestwich & al'. s. d.

son and successor, Roger, lived in the reign of Henry VII. He married a daughter of Ellis Prestwich of Hulme Esq. and dying

Margareta f. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow remis Rogō de Barlow avunculo meo & hered' suis tot. jus. meū in m̄ de Barlow, Chollerton &c. Test. Rob. de Trafford; Tho. de Hulme &c. 17 Edw. III.

In Dei noīe Amen, 1397. A certificate of Lichfield: Q'dem Tho. de Barlow qui tunc erat integer D'nus de Barlow ejus v^o Tho. pater appellabatur Rob. de Barlow & p'fat Tho. sic existens integer D'n's de Barlow hūit 2 filios quor Rog. erat fil. suus primogenit.; 2^{dus} erat Tho. fil. suus postea natus & sic autem id. Rogūs erat integer D'nus de Barlow p't decessū p'd'cī Tho. p'ris sui & p'fat Rogūs hūit quend. fil. noīe Rog. q̄ p't decessū p'oris Rogī p'ris sui erat integer Dnūs ejusd. vil. de Barlow &c.

O'ibz &c. Marg^{ta} f. Rogī de Barlow remis Rog'o de Barlow avunculo meo & hered' suis tot. jus. in m de Barlow &c. Dat. 1339.

Ego Rob. Collayn dedi Johī f. Rogī de Barlow ad vitam oīā mess. terr. &c. in Barlow, Chollerton &c.; rem. Johī f. Johīs & hæ. de corpē ip'ius Johīs f. Joh'æ f. Ricī de Holland. Test. Jō de Radcliffe de Chaderton; Ad. de Lever jun.; Ricō de Redish; Jac. de Barlow. 14 Ric. II.

Ego Hudd. de Barlow dedi W^o fil' meo oīā terr. & ten. &c. in Halghton & Wythinton, rem. Johī f. Rogī de Barlow &c. 2 Hen. IV.

Ego Hugo de Barlow remis Jō de Barlow sen. tot. jus. in Barlow. 9 Hen. IV.

Ego Nich'us de Prestwich cap^lus dedi Margerīæ de Barlow ad vitam 2 burg' in Man^r q' huī ex dono p'dcæ Margerīæ; rem. Jō f. Rogī de Barlow. Dat. ap^d Man^r 22 Ric. II.

Fol. 174. Jō de Barlow de Barlow; Radus de Prestwich. 7 Hen. VI.

Joh'es Dnūs de Barlow. 2 Hen. IV.

Ego Jō Wighull civis Ebor. dedi Johī de Barlow jun. oīā terr. mea in Bowkegate & in le Mersh de Nottingham. 4 Hen. VI.

Ego Jō Barlow f. Johīs Barlow sen. dedi Robto' Honford ar^o & Jac. Hull rect. ecclīæ de Northerdene oīā man. mess. &c. in Halghton. 36 Hen. VI.

Endent' ent' Rich. de Ashton de Mersey Bank & Nichol' f. Jō de Barlow. Alisand f. & h. du dit Nichol' a marrier a Eliz. filie de dit Rich. s. d.

Nichol. fil. Jō de Barlow & Alex. f. ejus conc. Georgio Barlow q'ddā campū in Barlow ad term 4 annor. 4 Jul. 29 Hen. VI.

Ind. 18 Aug. 30 Hen. VI. I. Nichol. Barlow s. & h. of Jenkin Barlow of Barlow & Annes his wife joynltly betaken & to ferme to George Barlow of Chollerton & to Rich. Barlow p'cell of land &c. for 5 years after the decease of y^e said Jenkin Barlow of Barlow.

Ego Nicholl. Barlow dedi Alexō Barlow f. meo oīā ten. terr. &c. q' nup' fuer Jō de Barlow p'ris mei in Withington seu alibi in co. Lane. 3 Dec. 6 Edward IV.

Ego Alex. Barlow f. & h. Nich. Barlow dedi &c. Johī Radcliffe de Radcliffe, Thurstano Tildesley ar. Jāc Hill rect. de Northerden, Ranl. Ashton rect. de Ashton maner' meū de Barlow, &c. 18 Edw. IV.

Alex. Barlow de Barlow 5 February, 1557.

seised of the Barlow estate transmitted it to his son, Ellis Barlow, so named after his maternal grandfather. Ellis Barlow married Anne, daughter of Otes Reddish of Reddish Esq., and had issue a son, Alexander his successor, and a daughter, Margaret wife of Edward Stanley, third Earl of Derby.

The Barlow family at the time of the Reformation remained steadfast in their adherence to the old creed, refusing to embrace the reformed faith which England as a nation then adopted. They were blind to the corruptions which in successive ages had crept into the purer doctrine of their forefathers, and when Elizabeth attempted by penal enactments, somewhat rigorously enforced, to carry out the Protestant principles of the Reformation, which under her sister and predecessor had been threatened with extinction, much suffering awaited all who refused to conform.

Alexander Barlow Esq. seems to have been the first member of his family called upon to suffer persecution for the sake of his religion. Dr. Bridgewater in his *Concertatio*, quoted by Dr. Challoner,¹ informs us that in the year 1584 no less than fifty Roman Catholic gentlemen's houses in Lancashire were searched in one night under pretence of looking for priests, but so as to send away the masters to divers prisons, where they suffered great hardships for their faith. He mentions particularly Mr. Travers, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Barlow, the last of whom was at that time so ill as not to be able to sit upon his horse, yet this could not save him from being sent to prison. He was taken in the first instance to Manchester, whence he was almost immediately removed to the seat of a gentleman of the same county whose name is not recorded, and there he died in August 1584. He was buried in Didsbury Chapel on the 26th of that month. It is related of his custodian that he himself afterwards embraced the Roman Catholic religion. Alexander Barlow Esq. was elected representative for Wigan in the first parliament assembled by King Edward VI. in the first year of his reign 1547, and continued to represent the same constituency uninterruptedly throughout the reign of Ed-

¹ *Missionary Priests*, pp. 83-84.

ward, and through the first four parliaments in the reign of Queen Mary, his successor, until the year 1557.¹ He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheirress of George Legh of Manchester, a younger branch of Legh of High Legh, and by her had one son bearing the same name with his father, and several daughters. Other accounts represent him as contracting a second marriage with Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton, and as having issue by her a numerous family, one of his sons by this second marriage being William Barlow, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln; but this assertion is full of improbabilities. In the certified pedigree of the family, Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton, is described as being the wife of his eldest son Alexander. But what is conclusive of the whole matter is the simple fact that his wife Elizabeth Legh only pre-deceased her husband by the short space of eight months, and therefore no such marriage could have taken place, husband and wife dying respectively December 26, 1583, and August 26, 1584, both being interred at Didsbury.

In the *Stanley Papers*, part ii., p. 212 (Chetham Society's publications) the paternity of Bishop William Barlow is assigned to Sir Alexander Barlow, eldest son of the above first-mentioned Alexander, but this statement also meets with a ready disproof, the close approximation of their ages being irreconcilable with such affinity, the knight being born in 1558 and the bishop, according to his biographers, "about the middle of the sixteenth century."

That Bishop Barlow was descended from this family, and that too in a degree not very remote, has never been questioned, but it is difficult to establish the precise connexion. Wood (*Fasti Oxon.* p. 786) asserts that he "was born of, and descended from, the ancient and gentile family of the Barlows of Barlow in Lancashire," a statement which Baines repeats (*History of Lancashire*, vol. ii. p. 360); Chalmers, too (*Biographical Dictionary*, vol. iii. p. 487), gives Lancashire as the place of his birth. He was brought up in the family of Dr. Cosin, Dean of the Arches, and it is not unrea-

¹ Brown Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*, London, 1750.

sonable to suppose that having renounced the faith of his ancestors he had become an outcast from his father's house. In 1580 he was entered by Dr. Cosin as a student at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.¹ In 1584 he graduated in Arts, having previously removed to St. John's College. In 1587 he proceeded to the degree of M.A., and in 1590 was elected Fellow of Trinity Hall.² In 1597 he was created D.D., and resigned his fellowship on being collated by Archbishop Whitgift to the rectory of Orpington in the county of Kent. He was at this time chaplain to the archbishop, and soon afterwards received a similar appointment from the Queen. He became also Rector of St. Dunstan's in the East on the presentation of his former patron the archbishop, and also a Prebendary of St. Paul's. In 1601 he was installed Prebendary of Westminster, and the year following Dean of Chester. In 1603 he was selected by Archbishop Whitgift to draw up a narrative of the then recent and famous Conference held at Hampton Court, before King James, January 14, 15, 16, 1603, on the subject of episcopacy. In 1605 he became a Prebendary of Canterbury, and in the same year was raised to the bench as Bishop of Rochester, over which see he continued to preside for the space of three years, when he was translated to Lincoln May 21, 1608. He died suddenly at his palace at Buckden September 7, 1613, and was buried in the chancel of that church. He had the reputation of great learning, and was chosen one of the translators of the Bible. He published a life of Dr. Richard Cosin, his early patron; a narrative of the Hampton Court Conference; and several sermons. His will, dated April 6, 1612, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is as follows:—

¹ Reference has been made to the College Register of entries, with a view to ascertain, if possible, from that source the parentage of Bishop Barlow, but without success. Unfortunately the names of parents were not inserted in the Registers of that College until after the year 1650.

² Baines gives 1587 as the date of his election to a Fellowship, but incorrectly, as appears from a reference to the College Books.

WILL OF BISHOP BARLOW.

Aprilis 6, 1612, beyng Monday in ye morninge.

In the name of God amen. I William Barlowe Bishop of Lincolne, most unworthie of that honoure, unfeynedlie I speak yt, beyng in perfect health of bodye and strengthe of memorye, do make and ordayne this my last will and testament inviolablie to stand unlesse that hereafter I doe uppon juste occasion under myn owne hande revoke yt, for the chaunges of tymes are in the power of the mightie God unto whose mercifull handes and grace thoroughe Christe Jesus my blessed Savyoure I doe in all humilitie and earnestness first bequeathe and commend my soule so deerlie boughte with the precious bloud of that immaculate lambe the eternall Sonne of God incarnate that he mighte dye and dying that he mighte make mankynd to live, most humble beseeching that most gracious fater for his owne mercys sake and the blessed Sonne for his deathe and passion sake to pardon the mannifould synnes of this my transgressing soule too muche taynted by the bodyes contagion and connection therewith, and to cast them all behinde his backe never to remember them either for my confusion in this life or my condemnation in the worlde to come, of whiche grace I have the more comfortable assurance because renounceing whatsoever is in my selfe I doe onely relye uppon all the sufficient meritts of my Lorde and Savioure Jesus Christe wthout whose grace alone I were a most forlorne, distressed and miserable wretche; requesting alsoe eache person whome I have at any tyme in my lyfe by word or deede offended hartelye to forgive me as I doe unfeynedlye remitt all offences done to me. As for my bodye, as yt ys in ytself a sacke of filthe and lumpe of fleshe, the prison of my soule, I little regard yt, but as beyng of God's frame and the vouchsafed tenement of the Holie Ghoste an honorable vessel, I bequeathe yt to Christians and Christian buryall to be reposed amonge the neerest of kynne unto yt, y^t is wormes and corruption, and to be interred in my Cathedrall Churche yf I dye neere yt, or in the Collegiat Churche of Westmynster yf there I dye, otherwise in the nexte parish churche to my dwelling house

wheresoeuer yt shalbe that my soule leaveth my bodie. And for my temporall goodes wherewith God hath ben pleased to blesse me, and truste I maye saye trulie so, for in them there is neither bryberie, symonye nor sicophancye, I doe bestowe them in manner and forme followeing: First, unto her whome I chose for my comforte, Mrs. Johane Barlowe, the associat of my bourd and bed (of whose bodye alone and by noe other woman in the worlde I begatt all the children which I either have or had), I doe bequeathe and will in recompence of the twoe hundred poundes whiche she broughte me for her dowrye to be payed her presently after my buryall or funerall (yf there be any) in readye money, twoe thowsand poundes sterling, conditionally that she offer no disturbance to myn executours which shalbe named hereafter, nor give any ympeachment to this my last will and testament, nor yf she asperge me or my caling with any reprochfull or contumelious termes after my decease; for the better performance whereof I will that the money shall not be payed unto her before that she with twoe sufficient sewerties doe enter into bond unto myne executours and their assignes so to staye her selfe and allso to be bound to make good unto her daughters one thowsand poundes, into which covennts yf she will not enter, then my resolucon is and so I will that she shall have but one thowsand poundes in all, and the other thowsand poundes to be equallie divided besydes their porcons hereinunder named betwene my twoe daughters Alyce Barlowe and Jane Barlowe: This condicon may seeme to some very hard and in a dying husband very uncharritable, but the reason thereof God knoweth and I hope alloweth, and so do they whoe have lyved neere unto us; I am sure yt can savour of noe revenge seeyng the whole portion (all circumstances beyng well considered) is a very fayer one (yf she can have the grace to be content therewith as I praye God she maye), and little can she doe yf she cannot afforde me goode wordes for yt. Item unto my eldest daughter Alice Barlowe I doe bequeathe one thowsand poundes; and to my yongest daughter Jaine Barlowe one other thowsand poundes allso, besides the dividet of the one thowsand

poundes beforenamed (yf theire mother be so ill advised as to refuse yt uppon the condition specified), which severall sommes of one thowsand poundes apeece to my daughters I doe will to be put into the custodie of the Worshipfull Companye and Societie of the Fishmongers in London, earnestlie requesting theym to take yt into theire handes to ymploye yt for the best benefitt and behoofe of the twoe poore orphanes, the manner whereof because I will not burthen my will therewith, I have set downe in a paper by yt selfe that they may see yt and allowe yt. Item unto my sister Katharine, the wife of Thomas Johnson, Fishmonger, I do bequeathe the somme of one hundred and fiftie poundes conditionally that her husband and she enter into bond, or she alone (yf at my death she be widowe) to leave unto her sonne William Johnson one hundred pounds thereof after her deathe (yf he survive her) unlesse that he will be so kynde as to release her therof yf that he be otherwise provided and be made able to lyve of hym selfe before my death. Item I bequeathe unto William Orwell, my gentleman-usher (yf he be in my service or belonginge unto me at the tyme of my deathe) twentie poundes to be payed him p^{ntly} after my buryall and funerall (yf there be any made for me) and he be present at them bothe or at the last especiallie. Item I give unto George Knellen my clarke of my kytchen, beside the patent of the parke and the housekeeping which with my money I redeemed for hym, twentie poundes in money to be payed as above is speecified in the legacy to Mr. William Orwell. Item I do give and bequeathe unto my faithfull servanthe John Balden (for whome I have yet done nothing) the summe of twentie poundes, to be payed as to the parties beforenamed is mentioned, and upon that condi^{co}n that yf he be then in my service and present at my interring and funerall. Item I give and bequeathe unto the under officers, butler, cooke, wardrober and brewer, fiftie shillinges apeece yf those parties be in my house, whiche nowe at the date hereof have those places, otherwise not. For yf any or all of them be gone, then I will that theire partes be given in almes to the poore prisoners in the gaole in Huntingdon, by twentie shillinges a quarter soe long as the

same will laste. Item I give unto Stephen Barrye whoe was broughte up from a childe in my howse (yf he be not my cooke) fyve pounds; yf that he be, then fiftie shillinges more then the other fiftie shillinges before, to make it up fyve poundes. Item I give and bequeathe unto the Societie of the Fishmongers in London the somme of fower score poundes, to be ymployed in the same and noe other manner then as the legacey which they had of my loveing mother Mrs. Alice Feild is used, for the benefitt of fower poore men in theire company, by them selves to be named, whereof Thomas Philipps to be one soe longe as he liveth, and the encrease to be geven unto the poore of the parishe where my mother hath allotted hers, conditionallie that they accept of my doughters portions in that forme which shalbe prescribed. And yf yt happen that either of the maydens dye before they be marryed, then my will is that the portion of her so deceased shalbe ymployed in the fownding of soe many or fewer of Bachellors and Fellowes in Saint Johns Colledge in Cambridge (whereof I was once an unworthie member) as the master and senior the tyme beyng shall thincke meete, which shalbe called by the name of the Fishmongers Fellowes and Schollers of Bishopp Barlowe his foundaçon. Or yf the companye do refuse to meddle with the childrens portions then I doe requyre myne executors to make suite unto the Chaumber of London to take yt upon those condiçons. And yf either of the wenches dye before theire marriage, the portion of the deceased to pass unto the colledge as above ys mentioned, and they to be named London Fellowes and Schollers of Bishop Barlowes Foundation. Now for my plate, I doe give and bequeathe unto the Companye of Fishmongers my greate standyng cupp dubble guilte, covered and engraven with the hartes of men flaming rounde aboute yt (yf they take my doughters portions and soe ymploye them), and conditionallye that uppon everie of theire Masters feastes dayes they make yt theire grace cupp and put yt into the handes of the principall guest present to begynne in solempne manner to the rest; yf they refuse yt then I give yt to Saint Johns Colledge in Cambridge at theire feastes to

be presented at the table after grace. Item I give unto Trinitie Hall in Cambridge my next tall standing cupp dubble guilte and covered with a case wherin yt ys placed, to be at theire feastes in like manner presented. Item unto my man Simon Bibie I do give one of my silver standishes, chuse whiche of them he will. Item I give unto George Knellen my dubble silver bell salte and one of the deepe silver bolles which are commonly used for beere. Item I give unto John Cobden my lesser duble guilte salte graven and covered, with a man on the topp bearing a speare and target, which was once my mothers, and also the lesser of my trencher saltes duble guilte made triangle wise, and also one other of the deepe silver bolles used daylie for beere. The rest of my plate unbequeathed I will to be devided into fower partes by the weighte, and my bedfellowe to take one parte for her share. The other three partes my twoe daughters to devide betweene them, whiche I will to be committed unto some honest bodyes truste uppon landes to myne executors for the saffe delivery unto the girles when they come to age or marriage respectively. Item I give and bequeathe unto Mrs. Johane Barlowe, my wife, the bedsteed with all the ymplements of silke belonginge thereunto, with the bedding and whole furniture whereuppon we usuallie lye, and is placed in oure bedchamber which we nightelie use; and allsoe y^e arras coverlett which was not my mothers, for that I will that Alice shall have. Item I give unto my saied wife three liverye bedds and bedsteads whollie furnished as they stand at Westminster in myne house there. Item I give unto George Kenn that bedding which he hath of myne allreadie. Item I give unto John Cobden the bedstead, bed, blanketts, pillowe, bolster and mattresse which standeth in my bedchamber at Westminster whereon I lye myselfe, and one payer of flaxen sheetes. The sute of lynnens damasked whiche I boughte and is marked with A. B. I give yt to Alice Barlowe my daughter. The rest of my lynnens I wille to be sorted into three partes to be equallie devided betweene my wife and my twoe daughters. Item I give unto William Orwell, yf he then attend me, his choice of any guelding in my stable that trotteth. Item

unto John Cobden one gelding that acombleth, to be appoynted unto hym by my executors. Item unto my wife twoe gueldings of her owne choise, yf she will have any, and the use of twoe coache horses and the use of my coache for one quarter of a yere after my decease (yf she will undertake to keep them well and safe). Item I bequeath unto Trinitie Hall in Cambridge the Bible of Arius Montanus in eight volumes folio. Item the Councels sett out by Binnius in fyve volumes folio. Item the whole Civill course of the latter edition in six volumes folio. Item Plato in twoe volumes folio Greeke and Lattyn; all w^{ch} I will to be placed in theire librarye uppon one deske by themselves, and the name of the donor to be set on the front of the deske. The reste of my bookes unbequeathed I give unto William Johnson my sisters sonne uppon condition that he be a scholler at my deathe; and yf while he lyve unlesse yt be uppon greate wante he sell any one of the folio bookes or give anye awaye which he hath not duble, he shall forfeyt all the rest to my executors, and they shall sell them to the benefitt of my twoe children, or yf he refuse them uppon the condiçõn specified. The rest of myne horses, hanginges, beddings, furniture, stocke and househould stuffe of what nature soever y^t is not bequeathed I will my twoe daughters to take their choise of, yf there be enoughe to defraye succeeding chardges, and the rest to be sould, and after my funerall (which I would have decent, frugall and without pompous ceremonyes) and other necessary chardges and payments passed, I will to be divided equallie betweene my sayed twoe doughters. And I doe hereby constitute and appoynte my trustie and well beloved Mr. Christofer Wyvell, Chauncellor of Lincolne, and Mr. Thomas Taylor, Bachellor of Lawes, my present steward, to be joynt executors of this my last will and testament, requesting them to take this last paynes for me whoe have ever loved them well, and shall never see them agayne here, and to see that my children be well broughte up in the feare of God and good nourture withoute vanitie and dissolutnes; and to eache of them I doe bequeathe twentie poundes apeece

clearlie besides all their chardges, hoping they shall be no losers by this chardge undertaking. And yf they finde that I have overchardged my will, then I forbidd them to make any funerall for me, but onely to erect for me in the place where I am buryed suche a monument and no other as Doctor Goode nowe Deane of Westminster hath set up for hymselfe in the churche of Westminster. Item I do appoynt overseers of this my will Doctor Morison, Commissarye of Huntingdon, and Mr. Simon Bibye, to eache of whome I bequeathe fyve poundes apeece to put into a gould rynge, requesting them to have a tender eye even for God's sake to the bringing up of my twoe daughters. And thus having set in order my temporall estate which is not very grate, my mynde is much quieted, and I beseeche Almighty God for His Sonne Jesus Christs sake to give me grace that I maye bestowe the rest of my dayes whiche I have to lyve in settling of my soules estate for Heaven, the end of my hope and the purchase of my Sayvours deere blood, with whome that I may eternally lyve I do most earnestlie praye, and to whome alone for all His blessings I do ascribe all honor and glorye for ever and ever. *Scripsi mea manu die et anno predictis.* W. LYNOLNE.

To my funerall I allott twoe hundred pounds and noe more except my executors and overseers doe see that more may be spared, in this manner to be ordered:—To tenne poore olde men eache of them a gowne of fortie shillings price. To my wife, children, sister and other of my consanguinitie and familye no women of either or retayners. for gownes and cloakes, one hundred and fortie poundes. For doale to the poore that daye fyve poundes in bread and money. Item I give unto the Company of Fishmongers one hundred pounds to be put by them into the handes of fower poore young men of that Companye whoe shall from tyme to tyme be named and appoynted by the alderman (yf there be any) of that societie with the Maister and twoe cheife Wardens, or yf there be no alderman, by the Maister and principall Warden for the tyme beyng, conditionallie that none shall have yt above twoe yeres together, and that they shall paye unto the

Companye for the use of that hundred poundes every yeare three poundes, amonge the whiche three poundes shalbe then distributed for the hospitall in Croydon in the countie of Surrey founded by my Mr. Archb. Whitegifte in this mañer, — 13^s 4^d for one y^t is a preacher licensed to preache in the p'she churche there yearly a sermon on the 22nd of Mareh beinge the daye on w^{ch} the hospitall was founded, in w^{ch} he shall make hon^{ble} men^{cion} of y^t most rev^{end} p^olate Archb. Whitgift his person and action, — 13^s 4^d to make a compleate dinner for all or as many of the poore of y^e hospitall as shalbe at the sermon y^t day if not sicke or bederid, — 10^s to be put into the common box of y^e hospitall for a dividant among the poore, and 13^s 4^d for y^e Vicar of Croydon to give notice in the church unto y^e p^oishon^{ls} every yeare on y^e Sundaie before y^e daye of y^t sermon, — & 6^s 8^d for one of y^e companie to be sent by the M^r and Wardens on y^t daye every yeare to see this p^oformed, — and 2^l 13^s 4^d to be equally devided ev^oy yeare in y^e Fishmong^r's Hall among 4 poore olde men or women of London at y^e nominac^{on} and appoyntment of y^e alderman alone yf there be any, or the M^r of the Companie alone for the tyme beyng.¹

¹ It is worthy of remark that a family so constant in its adherence to the unreformed faith, and so steady in maintaining that faith even at the sacrifice of life itself, should have furnished two Protestant bishops, both of them filling the see of Lincoln. To Dr. William Barlow, who died in 1613, allusion has already been made. Of the second, Dr. Thomas Barlow, Wood speaking (*Athenæ Oxonienses*, p. 876, edit. 1721) describes him as being the son of Richard Barlow, and as born at Lang-hill in the parish of Orton in Westmoreland in the year 1607, "but from what family of that name descended I know not, though he himself hath several times told me that he was extracted from the ancient house of Barlow in Lancashire." He was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, of which college he became provost in 1657. In 1675 he was raised to the see of Lincoln on the death of Dr. Fuller. "He died," says the same authority, "at Bugden in Huntingdonshire on the 8th day of October in sixteen hundred, ninety and one, and was buried on the 11th of the said month on the north side of the chancel belonging to the church there, near to the body of Dr. Rob. Sanderson, sometime Bishop of Lincoln, and according to his own desire in the very grave of Dr. Will. Barlow, sometime bishop of the same place, to whose memory as well as his own is erected a marble with the following inscription thereon, which he himself a few days before his death made: — 'Exuvie Thomæ Barlow S.T.P. Collegii Reginensis Oxon. præpositi, Protobibliothecarii Bodleiani, Archidiaconi Oxoniensis,

Alexander Barlow Esq., the second of that name, eldest son of Alexander Barlow Esq. M.P. was twenty-six years old at his father's death in 1584. When only four years of age, in conformity with the not infrequent custom of those days, he was married at Middleton to Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Ralph Belfield of Clegg in the county of Lancaster Esq., a marriage which he refused to ratify when arrived at years of discretion. In July 1574 he sued for a divorce, and obtained it October 21 in that year. He said on oath that he never "did at any tyme ratifie the said pretended mariage solemnized betwene them, for he doth not remember that evⁿ he was maried to the said Elizabeth or spake the words of matrimony to her, he was so young the same tyme it is said he was maried to the said Elizabeth." He afterwards married Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton of Honford in the county of Chester Knt., by whom he had issue a numerous family. He was knighted in 1603 at Whitehall on the occasion of the coronation of James I. His will is dated April 14, 1617, and was proved at Chester in 1620.

I, Sr Allexander Barlow Knight (th' elder), beeing bothe of p̃fecte healthe and memorie, thankes be unto Allmighty God, doe make this my laste will and testamente in manore and forme followinge, that is to saye, ffyrste and foremoste I betake bequethe and duely and willingly render and resigne up my sowle into His sacrede devyne Magisties handes and mercy (from whom I acknowledge I receaved the same) verily hopeinge by the deathe and bloodesheddinge upon the crosse of my sweete Lorde and Saviore Jesus Christe, and not p̃suminge of my owne merites, to be a saved soñte and a member and coheire of that celestially kingdome, and that I die a true and p̃fecte recusante catholicke :

pro Dom Margareta Comitissa Richmondæ S. Theol. professoris, Episcopi (licet indigni) Lincolnensis, in spem lætæ resurrectionis. Epitaphium hoc moriens composuit, tumulum rev. prædecessoris Gulielmi Barlow rabie fanatica ruiturum sumptibus propriis extruxit. Obiit 8 die Octob. 1691, an. ætatis suæ 85.'" He married according to Lyson's (*Environs of London*, vol. i. part i. p. 234) the daughter of a widow named Vaux, who in 1615 owned the Spring Gardens, Vauxhall, and from whom or her husband and his family Vauxhall derives its name.

Secondly, my will and mynde ys that my bodye, as p^sently after my deathe as maye be, be brought and lead unto Christiane buriall; and yf yt fortune I die wthin twentye myles of my house of Barlowe that my sayd bodye be leyde in Didsburye Churche as neere unto my father as may be, and that there be noe pompe nor solemnitye used or donne for me. Also my will and mynd is that fyrste, all suche debtes as shalbe founde hereunto annexed or remaine under my hande or seale, at the tyme of my deceasse, be fully satisfiied and dyscharged out of my whole goodes. Also, my will and mynde is that my deare and loveinge wyfe shall have her full and due threed [third] p^te (and that in favourable manore) of all the reste of the sayd goodes; and moreover my will ys that shee shall have the longe wrought quishen clothe edged aboute wth goulde lace. Also, I geve and my will and mynde is that my sonne Allexander shall have a peece of goulde of towe and twenty shillings. Also I geve to my loveinge sonne in lawe John Talbotte Esquiere the like somme of xxij^s in goulde. Also I geve unto my daughter Margreate Talbotte one peece of goulde of eleaven shillings. Also I geve unto my sonne George twentye shillings. Also to my sonne Robarte one cloake clothe of the same pryce. Also I geve unto my daughter ffrauncis fortye shillings towards byeinge her a blacke gowne. Also I geve unto my grande chylde Alexander Barlowe his picture. Also I geve unto my wyffe my owne picture to keepe duringe her lyffe, and after her deathe then I geve the same picture to my daughter Katteren Barlowe to keepe till suche tyme as my grande chylde Allexander shalbe married and a housekeeper, and then my will ys that shee delyver the same to hym as a gyfte from me, and that yt shall remeane at barlowe then as an heireloome to the sayd Allexander Barlowe my grandechylde and his heires.¹ Also my will

¹ What became of this heir-loom at the dispersion of the effects of the Barlows on the extinction of the family is not known. A copper-plate engraved with a portrait, half-length, of Sir Alexander, taken as it seems from *an* original — probably *the* original — family picture, and at no very recent date, is now in the possession of Mr. George Barlow of Greenhill, Oldham. It represents Sir Alexander as habited in a black gown profusely ornamented with small tassels, his neck encircled by the ample ruff of the

and mynde ys that myne executors shall see p^rformed and dyscharged wthin towē yeares after my deathe the late will of my sister Elizabethe for soe muchē as shalbe unp^rformed and not dyscharged at the tyme of my deathe. Also my will and mynd is that the velvett sute imbroadred wth goulde be dysposed of to that ende and place as my father heretofore dyd dispose of the same; and I desyre myne executors hereafter named, thoughe theye keepe yt for a tyme yett not to defeande this my mynde and my fathers will. Also I geve unto the sister of my late servante Robarte Scoules whiche dwellethe in Craven in Yorkesheire forttye shillinges in money wthin one yeare after my deathe; and yf shee be dead then to her eldeste chylde then liveinge. Also I geve to Robarte Hicheñe of Knowesley the some of vjs viij^d wthin one yeare next after my deathe; and yf he be dead then to his eldeste chylde lyvinge. Also my will and mynde ys that xx^s be geaven and distributed amonge the poore of Hardaye, Chowlerton and Marslache by xij^d a peece doowle to praye for my soule, and the same distribution to be at the discretione of my executors wthin one

period. His right hand is raised, and in his left he holds a book. Above the head of the figure are the words IESV FILI DEI MISERERE MEI; SANCTA MARIA MATER DEI ORA PRO ME; and at the foot, SIR ALEXANDER BARLOW KNT. From the right hand corner proceed rays and the word ECCE, together with the sentence written diagonally until from the corner it reaches nearly to the head of the figure, TVFE SI ME ET TE, the meaning of which is not very clear. On the left of the portrait are several particulars of family history relating to Sir Alexander: — "ÆTATIS SVÆ 60, 1616. This Sr Alex barlow Knyght, the elder, sonne to Alex barlow Esq. who died in prisson for the Catholyck Relygion, had issue: —

1 Sr Alex barlow Knyght who together wth his father was knyghted att the coronation of Kyng James.

2 George.

3 William.

4 Edward.

5 John who died at . . . in Spayne

6 Robert dyed young.

7 Edward died an Infant.

8 Robert.

Elizabeth, died an Infant.

Margaret married to John Talbot of Sailbur' esquire.

francis.

Mary.

Jane.

Kathorin."

yeare nexte after my deathe. And for the reste and remaynder of all my goodes I geve and bequeathe them to my excutors hereafter named, equallye to be devyded amongeste them. And of this my laste will and testamente I make my executors my three yongeste daughters, Mary, Jane and Katheren Barlowe, whom I doe charge upon my blessinge and as they will answare me in an other worlde to see this my sayd will duly and truly pformed accordingly.

Witnesses: Richard Smithe, Francis Greaves, Edward Warren.

The will appears to have been made by Sir Alexander when abroad, as the following codicil testifies: — “Also at my cominge out of England I remeaned indebted and chargeable onely wth the debtes of xvij^{li} and some odde moneye of the executorshippe of my late brother-in-lawe Edwarde Scarisbricke Esquiere, but hereby my will is that yt shalbe xx^{li} and yf yt canbe pved or known that I owe more, that yt be dyscharged lykewysse. Allso the remayne of the pformance of my late sister Elizabethe her will; and allso I take ytt that twenty nobles is oweinge to the scoule of Manchester which was heretofore taken up by my father.

Debtes due and oweinge to my sellfe: — Imprimis, The debte of the late Robarte Pilkington of Rivington esquiere, and recovered by a Judgement in the Co^mon Pleas, of 250^{li} and of iiiij^{li} for charges of the sute. Also the remayne of the debte by lease from one Smythe. Allso the remeyne of the fyne of John Hardaye his house.

My father passed a fyne of all my landes in the fyrste and seaconde or seconde and threed yeares of Phillipe and Mary att Lancaster to John Parr and Gilbert Bibbey gent., the cotype or cyrograffe of whiche fyne I lefte in my clossett at Barlowe, but my sonne Alexander hathe gotten the same out from thence, by what meanes I know not, and woulde not delyver it me.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER BARLOWE.”

His injunctions relative to his interment at Didsbury were not complied with, or rather, dying abroad, a discretionary power was

left with his executors, and he was buried at the Collegiate Church of Manchester April 21, 1620. In a letter dated Manchester May 10, 1620, addressed by one Leonard Smedley to "the Rt. Worps^l S^r Richard S^t George Kt. Norroy King of Armes at his house in Holborne," occurs the following passage referring to the state ceremonial which generally succeeded the interment of persons of consideration:—"Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow ob. circa April 27, 1620, and was buried at Manchester Church by torch light, whose exōrs cannot yet resolve whether to have a funeral or noe by reson sūme of them ar yet in the south p^ts neere London &c. but within 20 daies I am to receave an absolute answer." He was succeeded by his son Alexander, who also received knighthood with his father at the coronation of James I. He married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Parker Lord Morley and Mont-eagle, by whom he had issue a son Alexander and two daughters. His second wife was Dorothy, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley of Drakelow Bart. He died in 1642, and was interred July 6 in the Collegiate Church of Manchester. He makes his will April 4, 1631, eleven years before his death; it was proved at Chester July 8, 1642.

I S^r Alexander Barlowe of Barlowe within the countie of Lancaster Knight, not sicke in bodie but in good healthe and perfecte memorie, thankes bee unto Almightye God; yet knowinge that nothinge is more certaine then death, nor nothinge more uncertaine then the tyme when,—the life of man being daylie subiecte to so manie perills and casualties, and all men being especiallie comāded even by God Himselfe, accordinge to the example of good Kinge Ezekiah, to sett theire houses in order,—have now in this tyme of my health ordained and made this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge:—ffirste, I comēd my soule into the handes of Almightye God my Creator, hoping by the pretious death and blood sheddingge of Christ Jesus my Saviour, to have full remission of all my sinnes, and in and through Him to bee freelie purged from the same. Next I comēd my bodie to the earthe whereof it was made, to bee buried in the

parish churche of Manchester as neare to my late ffather as convenientlye may bee, desiring my executors hereunder named that I maye bee thither brought with as litle cost as possible can bee. Also I give, will and bequeath unto my sonne Alexander, begotten by my first wife, the some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Dorotheie the like some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Katharine the like some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeath unto my sonne Thomas the some of ffiftie poundes in money and one peece of plate w^{ch} was given by Sr Edwarde Mosley unto my said sonne Thomas at his baptizinge, and one double guilt salte. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Anne the some of ffiftie poundes in money and my flatt guilt bowle. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Marie the like some of ffiftie poundes in money and my double guilt bason and ewer. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Elizabeth the like some of ffiftie poundes in money and my nest of Tunnes double guilte. Also my will and desire is that my now wife Dame Dorotheie Barlowe shall have the keepinge of all theis parcells of plate duringe the tearme of her naturall life. Also I give, devise and bequeathe unto my said dearest beloved wife Dame Dorotheie Barlowe all the rest of my goodes, credittes, debtes owinge unto mee by bond, bill or otherwise, also my moneys, plate, jewelles, houshold stuffe, cattalls and chattells whatsoever or wheresover. Lastlye I doe ordaine, constitute and appointe my well beloved cosens Peter Egerton of the Shawe in the countie of Lancaster esquier, William Dauntsey of Agecrofte esquier and Ellis Prestwich gentleman, to bee executors of this my last will and testament, unto everie one of w^{ch} I give and bequeath a two and twentie shillinges peece of goulde, hoping that they will trulie and dylie see everie parte and particular branche hereof executed and performed. And I doe nominate and appointe my lovinge brother-in-lawe Sr George Greysley Knight and Baronett, and my lovinge cosen Roger Downes of Wardeley esquier, Vice chamberlaine of the countie pallatync of Chester, to bee overseers hereof. In

witnes whereof I the said S^r Alexander Barlowe hereunto have putt my hande and seale this fourthe daie of Aprill in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lorde Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, ffraunce and Irelande Kinge, Defender of the faith &c. annoque Domini 1631. In presence of theis persons whose names are hereunder written : — Alexander Barlowe, William Grantham, Alexander Smythe, George Brooke, James Birche.

But fiercer trials and yet more severe persecutions were in store for the family. The two rival creeds were engaged in a deadly struggle for victory, and in no county did Popery present a more determined front than in Lancashire. Conspiracies were from time to time framed by the Papists against the Protestant Queen and her government, and these called for the enactment of severe laws for their suppression. The tendency of such legislation was to drive into foreign countries those whose safety was imperilled by a continued residence in England. Many families sought refuge in France, where an English seminary was established at Douay in 1568, from which a succession of missionaries went forth, returning to their native land and devoting themselves to the work of resisting the Queen's efforts to abolish Popery, and conspiring against her majesty's person, which they did often at the cost of their lives. By statute 27 Elizabeth cap. 2, all Jesuits, Seminary Priests and other Priests made or ordained out of the realm, were ordered to quit the country by a certain day. It was further enacted, that coming into the kingdom after that time should be adjudged high treason. And that anyone receiving, relieving, comforting, &c. such person, should be considered a felon and suffer death. It was also decreed, that if any person, not being a Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c. &c., now being, or which hereafter should be of, or brought up in, any college of Jesuits already erected or ordained, or hereafter to be erected or ordained, in the parts beyond the seas or out of this realm, should not within six months after a proclamation in that behalf to be made in the city of London under the Great Seal of

England, return into this realm, and within two days after such return, before the bishop of the dioecse or two justices of the peace of the county where he shall arrive, submit himself to her majesty and her laws, and take the oath set forth by her aet in the first year of her reign, that then every such person who should otherwise return and be in the realm, should be judged a traitor and guilty of high treason. Should any person hold communication with any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c. abroad, or should he send any money towards the support of any college or seminary, then that he incur the danger and penalty of *præmunire*. If any one should send his child or ward to any college abroad for education, he rendered himself liable to the forfeiture of the sum of one hundred pounds. All persons knowing of or discovering any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c., and not informing within twelve days, were to be fined and imprisoned at the Queen's pleasure.

Of those Papists banished from their native land and educated beyond the seas, who returned to exercise the proscribed office of priest, were two of the younger sons of Sir Alexander Barlow the elder, — Edward, who took the name of Father Ambrose, and suffered death for his religion at Lancaster September 10, 1641, and his elder brother, known as Father Rudesind Barlow, who has not been identified by his true Christian name, but who in 1623, being at the time president of the English congregation of St. Benedict, was mainly instrumental in founding an abbey for Benedictine nuns at Cambray.¹

An interesting memoir of the former, derived from two MS. relations kept by the English Benedictines at Douay, one of them being a letter of his brother, Father Rudesind Barlow, to the abbot and monks of Cellanova, dated January 1, 1642, has been already given to the public by Challoner in his *Memoirs of Missionary Priests* (part ii. pp. 96–102); but as this work is little known beyond the communion of the Romish church, it has been thought worthy of insertion in the accompanying family memoir.²

¹ *Annual Register*, vol. xlii. pp. 428–9.

² See also Dodd's *Church History*, vol. iii. p. 100. Brussels, 1742.

Edward Barlow [the younger son] was a monk of the order of St. Benedict, called in religion Father Ambrose. He was born at Barlow Hall near Manchester in 1585, of pious and Catholic parents [and baptized at Didsbury Chapel November 30, 1585]. His father was that constant confessor of Christ, Alexander Barlow Esq., who made it his care to give this his son a Catholic and liberal education. By these means his tender mind, which had already a happy sweetness of temper and an inclination to piety and learning, was improved, and strongly established in the true faith and the love of God. When he was twelve years old he was taken from school to be page to a relation, a person of quality. But as he grew up and considered the emptiness and vanity of the transitory toys of this life and the greatness of things eternal, he took a resolution to withdraw himself from the world, and to go abroad, in order to procure those helps of virtue and learning which might qualify him for the priesthood, and enable him to be of some assistance to his native country. The place he made choice of for his studies was the University of Douay, which had been recommended to him by fame and by the testimony of many learned and pious priests who had studied there. Here meeting with two other young gentlemen of equal age and of the same inclinations, he chose them for his chamber-fellows, and with them frequented the humanity schools at Anchin College, under the fathers of the society, as the alumni of the English seminary all did during Dr. Worthington's presidency. When he had finished his humanity he was sent by the aforesaid Dr. Worthington (August 23, 1610) from the English College of Douay to that of Valladolid, where he went through his course of philosophy and part of his divinity; for before he had finished the latter he followed his brother Dr. Rudesind Barlow to Douay, where he received the habit of St. Benedict, and after making his noviceship at a house then belonging to the English congregation near St. Malo in Little Brittany, he was professed at Douay in 1615; and being now thirty years old, and otherwise very well qualified by virtue and learning for the apostolic calling, he was presented by his

superiors not long after his profession to the holy order of priesthood, and sent upon the English mission, to which he found himself strongly invited by an inward call. The seat of his missionary labours was his native country of Lancashire, "where," says Mr. Knaresborough in his MSS. collections, "his memory is held in great esteem to this day by the Catholics of that country, for his great zeal in the conversion of souls and the exemplary piety of his life and conversation." 'Tis scarce to be expressed what wonderful blessings the Almighty gave to the labours of this His faithful servant, who made it his constant business to join the care of his own soul with that of his flock, and to preach full as much by example as by words. Such was the fervour of his zeal that he thought the day lost in which he had not done some notable thing for the salvation of souls. Night and day he was ever ready to lay hold of all occasions of reclaiming any one from error; and whatever time he could spare from his devotions he employed in seeking after the lost sheep, and in exhorting, instructing and correcting sinners, and omitted no opportunity of preaching the word of God. But then he never neglected the care of his own sanctification. He celebrated mass, and recited the office with great reverence and devotion; had his fixed hours for mental prayer, which he never omitted; and found so much pleasure in this inward conversation with God (from which he received that constant supply of heavenly light and strength) that when the time came on which he had devoted to this holy exercise he was affected with a sensible joy as much as worldlings would be when going to a feast. He had also a great devotion to the rosary, which he daily recited and recommended much to his penitents; and was very tenderly affected with the sacred mysteries of the incarnation, passion and resurrection of the Son of God (which he there contemplated), and was much devoted to His blessed mother. He often meditated on the sufferings of his Redeemer with his arms extended in the form of a cross, and these meditations enkindled in his soul a desire of suffering for Christ, a happiness for which he daily prayed. He had a great contempt of the world

and its vanities, and a very humble opinion of himself, joined with a great esteem, love and veneration for the virtue of others. He was always afraid of honours and preferments, and had a horror of vain glory, which he used to call the worm or moth of virtues, and which he never failed to correct in others, sometimes in a jocose way, at others seriously, according to the temper of the persons. He industriously avoided feasts and assemblies, and all meetings for merry-making, as liable to dangers of excess, idle talk and detraction. He had no regard for temporal interest, and refused (though desired by many) to live in great families where he might be well accommodated with all things; choosing rather to live in a private country-house where the poor, to whom he had chiefly devoted his labours, might have at all times free access to him; to whom also he plentifully imparted both spiritual and corporal alms according to his ability. He would never have a servant till forced to it by sickness, never used a horse, but made his pastoral visits always on foot. His apparel was mean; neither would he ever wear a sword or carry a watch. He allowed himself no manner of play or pastime, and avoided all superfluous talk and conversation, more especially with those of the fair sex, how virtuous or qualified soever; and when the business of his calling obliged him to make any stay in such company, he kept his eyes fixed on the ground, and would not look them in the face. Being asked one day by a lady of quality why he so much avoided the company of women since he himself was born of a woman, he replied, "For that very reason I avoid the company of women because I was born of a woman," signifying that the corruption of concupiscence which from our very birth is entailed upon us by original sin, was what made him look upon himself obliged to use those precautions. He boarded with an honest country farmer, where his diet was chiefly whitmeats [milk, butter or cheese] and garden stuff, for he seldom ate flesh unless by occasion of company that came to visit him. He drank only small beer, and that very sparingly, and always abstained from wine. Being asked the reason why he did so, he alleged the saying of the wise man,

“Wine and women make the wise apostatise.” He was never idle, but was always either praying, studying, preaching, administering the sacraments, or (which he used sometimes to divert himself with) painting pictures of Christ or His blessed mother. He was sometimes applied to to exorcise persons possessed by the devil, which he did with good success. He had a great talent in composing of differences and reconciling such as were at variance, and was consulted as an oracle by the Catholics of that country in all their doubts and difficulties. He feared no dangers when God’s honour and the salvation of souls called him forth, and has sometimes, when engaged in such expeditions, passed even at noonday through the midst of enemies without apprehension; and when some people would desire him to be more cautious he would turn them off with a joke, for he was usually very cheerful and pleasant in conversation, so that they who knew him best thought he was, in this regard, not unlike the celebrated Sir Thomas More. Yet he was very severe in rebuking sin, so that obstinate and impenitent sinners were afraid of coming near him. Nothing more afflicted him than when he saw any one going astray from the right path of virtue and truth, more especially if it were a person of whom he had conceived a good opinion or had great hopes. Upon these occasions he would at first be almost oppressed with melancholy, till recollecting himself in God, and submitting to His wise providence justly permitting evil, to draw greater good out of it, he recovered again his usual peace and serenity. Some months before his last apprehension (for he was several times a prisoner), hearing that some persons whom he loved as his own soul were in a resolution of doing something very wicked, which was like to be the ruin of many souls, he was so strongly on a sudden affected with it, that it flung him into a fit of the dead palsy, which took away the use of one side, and put him in danger of his life. What added very much to his cross was the fear lest his poor children whom he had begotten to Christ should now be left destitute of spiritual assistance; and whereas his convulsions and pains seemed to have brought him to death’s door, he had this additional afflic-

tion, that no priest could be found to administer the holy sacraments to him. In these extremities, God Almighty was pleased to comfort him; and being in a manner out of himself he broke forth into these words: — “Lord, Thy will be done; a due conformity of our will to Thine is to be preferred to the use of the sacraments, and even to martyrdom itself; I reverence and earnestly desire Thy sacraments, and I have often wished to lay down my life for Thee in the profession of my faith, but if it be pleasing to Thy infinite wisdom by this illness to take me out of the prison of this body, half dead already, Thy will be done.” Whilst he was in these dispositions God was pleased to send him a priest of the society of Jesus to assist him, as he himself had twelve years before exercised the same charity to Father Arrowsmith in prison before his last conflict; at which time that confessor of Christ is said to have foretold that he should be the next to follow him; at least this is certain, by the testimony of Mr. Barlow himself, in a letter to his brother Rudesind (who quotes it in his manuscript relation), dated out of prison May 17, 1641, that Father Arrowsmith, “the night after he suffered (when as yet Mr. Barlow had not heard of his suffering) standing by his bed-side, told him, ‘I have already suffered; you must also suffer; speak but little, for they will take advantage of your words.’” On the eves before the principal festivals of the year, whilst Mr. Barlow was in health, the Catholics resorted to him from distant places, and passed the night after the manner of the primitive church, in watching, prayer and spiritual colloquies; whilst for his part he was employed almost all the night in hearing confessions. On the next day he treated them all with a dinner, where he and some of the more honourable sort of his flock served them that were poor and waited upon them, and then dined off their leavings. When he sent them home he gave each of them a groat in alms; and when all had dined he distributed what remained to the poor of the parish. His zeal had made him as well known in all that neighbourhood as the very parson of the parish. Some reprehended him for going about so publicly, to whom he replied, “Let

them fear that have anything to lose which they are unwilling to part with ;” which was not his ease who had set his heart upon nothing in this world, and was even desirous to lay down his life for God’s cause. He could not be persuaded by his friends to retire further off from danger to a house of a kinsman of his in Cheshire, being desirous, if it pleased God, to shed his blood at Lancaster. He was beginning to recover of his illness but was as yet very weak, when he was apprehended on Easter Day, 1641, in the following manner, according to the account which he himself sent out of prison to his brother Rudesind :— A neighbouring minister¹ who had with him at church a numerous congregation, instead of entertaining them on that solemn day with a sermon and prayers as usual, proposed to them, as a work more worthy their zeal for the gospel, to go along with him to apprehend Barlow that noted popish priest, whom they would now be sure to find in the midst of his flock, whereas were they to stay till church time was over they would miss the opportunity. They relished the proposition, and being about four hundred in number, armed with clubs and swords, followed, the parson marching in front in his surplice, to the house where Mr. Barlow, having finished mass, was making an exhortation to his people, about a hundred in number, on the subject of patience. The Catholics that were within, as soon as they perceived the house was besieged, would have persuaded the man of God to hide himself, there being more than one private place for that purpose in the house, but he would by no means consent to secure himself and leave his sheep to the mercy of these wolves ; wherefore exhorting them all to constancy, and putting them in mind that these light and momentary tribulations would work in them an eternal weight of glory, and telling them withal how ready he was for his part to suffer all things for Christ, he ordered to open the doors. The mob immediately rushed in, crying out, “ Where is Barlow ? where is

¹ Other accounts fix the scene of his apprehension at Morleys, a seat of the Tyldesley family, and the name of the instigator Mr. Risley, a neighbouring Justice of the Peace.

Barlow? He is the man we want :” and laying hands upon him they secured him, letting the rest go upon giving caution for their appearance. In the meantime they searched the whole house, and broke open Mr. Barlow’s chest, in hopes of finding money ; but see the wonderful providence of our Lord ! Though there was a considerable sum of money there which had been lately sent him by some charitable gentlemen to be given to the poor, and though they rummaged and turned over all his clothes and other things, yet they could not find this bag, for which providence Mr. Barlow was very thankful, and gave proper orders afterwards for the disposing of the money according to the intention of the donors. Mr. Barlow being now in the hands of this mob and their minister (who, it seems, had acted in this whole affair without any warrant) was carried by them, the same day, before a justice of the peace, who sent him, guarded by sixty armed men, to Lancaster Castle. Some of his flock would have attempted to rescue him in the way out of their hands, but he earnestly entreated them not to think of it. He was carried to gaol in a sort of a triumph by this armed mob, who insulted over him and treated him with contempt, which was to him a subject of joy ; though at this time he was as yet so weak that he could not sit on horseback without one behind him to support him. He was kept in prison from Easter till the summer assizes, and in the meantime, instead of being weakened or cast down by his sufferings, he wonderfully recovered his strength and health. He would not hear of the propositions made by his friends, of using their interest to have him removed up to London, or sent into banishment, as many others had been ; but desired them to be easy and not to concern themselves about him, for that to die for this cause (viz. for being a Catholic priest) was to him more desirable than life ; that he must die sometime or other, and could not die a better death. To some also upon this occasion he imparted in confidence the vision which he had of Father Arrowsmith. In prison he often entertained himself with the book of Boetius *De Consolatione*, which the gaoler taking notice of, took the book away ; at which Mr. Barlow smilingly

said, "If you take this little book away I will betake myself to that great book from which Boetius learned his wholesome doctrine, and that book you can never take away from me;" and this is what he constantly practised by mental prayer. When any one came to visit him in prison he would not suffer the time to be lost in vain or worldly talk, but entertained the party with such discourses only as were for his instruction and edification. After above four months' imprisonment his trial came on on the 7th of September, before Sir Robert Heath, who is said to have had instructions from the parliament if any priest were convicted at Lancaster to see the law executed upon him for a terror to the Catholics, who were numerous in that county. The indictment being read, Mr. Barlow freely acknowledged himself a priest, and that he had exercised his priestly functions for above twenty years in this kingdom. The judge asked him why he had not obeyed the king's proclamation, commanding all priests to depart the realm before the 7th of April last past? Mr. Barlow answered that several persons there present, and especially they who had brought him to prison, very well knew that he was then so weak, by a long and grievous illness, that he was no ways in condition to obey the proclamation. The judge asked him what he thought of the justice of those laws by which priests were put to death? He answered that all laws made against Catholics on account of their religion were unjust and impious, for what law, said he, can be more unjust than this, by which priests are condemned to suffer as traitors merely because they are Roman, that is, true priests? for there are no other true priests but the Roman; and if these be destroyed what must become of the Divine law, when none remain to preach God's word and administer His sacraments? "Then," said the judge, "what opinion have you of the makers of those laws, and of those who by their office see them put in execution?" Mr. Barlow replied, "If, my lord, in consequence of so unjust a law, you should condemn me to die, you would send me to heaven and yourself to hell." "Make what judgment you please," said the judge, "of my salvation; for my part, though the law has

brought you hither as a criminal and a sedueer of the people, I shall not pass so uncharitable a sentence upon you." "I am no sedueer," said Mr. Barlow, "but a reduceer of the people to the true and ancient religion." The judge, as he afterwards acknowledged, was astonished at the constancy of his answers and his intrepidity, and put him in mind that his life was in his hands, and that it was in his power to acquit him or condemn him; "and don't you know and acknowledge," said he, "that I sit here as your judge?" "I know," said the prisoner, "and acknowledge you judge, but in such causes only as belong to the temporal court and tribunal; but in spiritual matters, and in things belonging to the court of conscience, be pleased to take notice that I am judge, and therefore I tell you plainly, that if by that unjust law you sentence me to die, it will be to my salvation and your damnation." Upon this the judge directed the jury to bring him in guilty, and the next day pronounced sentence upon him in the usual form. Mr. Barlow heard the sentence with a cheerful and pleasant countenance, and said aloud, "Thanks be to God;" and then prayed heartily to the Divine Majesty to forgive all that had any ways been accessory to his death. The judge applauded his charity in this, and granted him what he petitioned for, viz. a chamber to himself in the castle, where, for the short remainder of his time, he might without molestation apply himself to his devotions, and prepare for his exit. On Friday the 10th of September he was brought out to suffer, according to sentence, and laid upon the hurdle, on which he was drawn to the place of execution, carrying all the way in his hand a cross of wood which he had made. When he was come to the place, being taken off the hurdle, he went three times round the gallows, carrying the cross before his breast, and reciting the penitent psalm *Miserere*. Some ministers were for disputing with him about religion, but he told them it was an unfair and unreasonable challenge, and that he had something else to do at present than to hearken to their fooleries. He suffered with great constancy according to sentence, and so passed from short labours and pains to eternal rest and joy, in the fifty-

fifth year of his age, the twenty-fifth of his religious profession, and the twenty-fourth of his priesthood and mission.¹

Sir Alexander Barlow the younger died in 1642, and was followed by his only surviving son by the first marriage of his father, and fourth of the name in succession recorded in the pedigree of the family. He married Frances, daughter of William Brereton of Ashley Esq., and dying without issue about the year 1654 was succeeded by his half-brother Thomas.

Thomas Barlow Esq., eldest son of the aforesaid Sir Alexander and his second wife Dorothy Gresley, married Winifred, daughter of Anthony Meinell Esq. of North Kilvington in Yorkshire, and dying in 1684 left a son Anthony his successor, who appears to have survived his two elder brothers Thomas and Alexander, and two daughters, Mary and Winifred. The latter daughter died unmarried in 1688, having two years previously made a will (dated December 6, 1686), wherein she disposes of her estate as follows:—She gives to her dear brother Anthony Barlow Esq. the full sum of £100; to her brother Mr. Charles Killingbeck the sum of £15; to her dear mother Winifred Barlow £10 and her silver watch; to Mr. Richard Mather £10; to Ellen Parkinson £1; to Elizabeth Renshaw £1; to her sister Mrs. Mary Barlow £10, to be distributed as she knows testatrix wishes. She gives to the poor the sum of £10; to Mrs. Ann Barlow her aunt £5; to Eliza Keth, her sister Barlow's maid, her crape manteau and petticoat; to her dear sister Mrs. Mary Barlow, whom she appoints executrix, the full and entire sum of £300, with the rest and residue of all her goods, debts, &c., after the discharge of all necessary expenses and legacies.

The name of Anthony Barlow Esq. appears in the List of Papists who in conformity with act 1 George I. registered their estates and the respective values thereof. The yearly value of

¹ There is a small engraved head of Father Ambrose Barlow, which bears the following inscription:—“Vera effigies R^{di} Ambrosii Barlo, presbyteri, et monachi congregationis Anglicanæ, ordinis S^{ti} Benedicti, qui pro Christi fide, sanguinem fudit Lancastriæ, in Anglia, 10 Septembris, 1641, æt. 55.”

his estate is returned at £171 9s. He married Magdalene, sister of Sir Edward Goulding, and died in 1723. His will is dated August 3, 1722, and discloses certain sympathies on the part of two of his sons with the cause of the proscribed Stuarts. Its provisions are as follows:— He bequeaths his soul to God, and his body “to the earth whence it came, to be decently buried without any pomp or show in the parish church of Manchester in the same grave where my late dear father and mother were interred and buried, the charge whereof I desire may not exceed the sum of sixty pounds.” He further gives all that his manor or lordship of Barlow in the said county of Lancaster, with all the rights, members, &c., and all his lands, &c., in Lancashire or elsewhere in the Kingdom of England, unto John Warren of Poynton in the county of Chester Esquire, Humphrey Trafford of Trafford in the county of Lancaster Esquire, John Moss of Manchester in the county of Lancaster woollen draper, and William Hulme of Manchester aforesaid grocer, upon trust, that as to the one messuage or tenement in Barlow aforesaid, now in the possession or occupation of John Hulme, unto the use of Edward Barlow, his third son, for his natural life. And as to those several parcels of land commonly called The Parkeye Meadow, The House Meadow, and Rason’s Meadow, to the use of his three daughters Winifred Barlow, Mary Barlow and Elizabeth Barlow, and their respective assigns for the term of their natural lives, equally to be divided. Then as to the aforesaid premises, from and after the determination of the several estates herein before limited, and as to and for all the rest and residue of the lands and premises whereof no use is herein before declared, he gives to the aforesaid John Warren, Humphrey Trafford, John Moss and William Hulme upon trust that they the said trustees shall out of the rents, issues and profits thereof by sale or mortgage of the same or any other lawful means, raise the several sums of £200 apiece to be paid to his three younger sons Anthony Barlow, John Barlow and Roger Barlow. And then as to the said premises charged and chargeable as aforesaid, he settles the same on the trustees aforesaid for the benefit of Thomas Barlow, his

eldest son, for his natural life, and to the heirs male of his body in succession. And for want of such issue, then to the said trustees for the use of Anthony Barlow, testator's second son, and his heirs male; and for want of such issue then in like manner for the benefit of John Barlow, testator's fourth son, and his heirs male; and in default of such issue then in like manner to the use of Roger Barlow, testator's fifth son, and his heirs male; and in default of such issue then to the said trustees, who shall from and immediately after the death of the said Thomas Barlow and Anthony Barlow and the survivor of them, convey the remainder in fee of the said lands to such person or persons who shall then be testator's immediate heir-at-law. "But in case there shall then be any interruption in the descent to my immediate heir occasioned by the corruption blood of the said Thomas Barlow or Anthony Barlow now attainted of high treason, upon trust then to convey the same to such person or persons as his or their heirs who should then have been my immediate heir-at-law in case the blood of the said Thomas Barlow and Anthony Barlow had never been corrupted as aforesaid." Provided always that it shall be lawful for the said trustees for and during the natural life of the said Thomas Barlow to lease all or any part of the said premises which have been usually leased, for one, two or three lives or any number of years determinable upon one, two or three lives, upon the usual fines. And it is his further will and pleasure that it shall be lawful for his said trustees during the life of the said Thomas Barlow by the direction of the said Thomas Barlow first had in writing under his hand and seal, to charge all or any part of the said premises, after the death of the said Thomas Barlow, with any annuity or yearly rent-charge to and for the use of Mary Barlow, now wife of the said Thomas Barlow, during her natural life, or in case of her death any other wife he may have, for the jointure of such woman, provided the annuity do not exceed the yearly rent of £10 for every £100 the said Mary Barlow or such other woman he shall hereafter take to wife was or shall be respectively entitled to at the time of their respective intermar-

riages with the said Thomas Barlow, and provided there be not any issue male then living of the said Thomas Barlow by any former wife. Provision is also made for charging the said lands after the death of the said Thomas Barlow with any sums not exceeding such portion as the said Mary Barlow or such other woman he shall hereafter take to wife was or shall be respectively entitled to at the time of their respective marriages, for the use of their respective younger children. Similar provision is also made contingent on the succession of Anthony Barlow to the estates, as already recited. And as for and concerning his goods, chattels and personal estate (after all his just debts and funeral expenses are discharged) he disposes thereof in manner following:—First he gives the sum of £5 to be put out in some faithful hands, and the interest to be distributed every Good Friday amongst the poorest of his tenants, or else to be paid to the overseers of the poor for Chollerton and divided amongst his tenants as aforesaid, which £5 was left by one Hartley of Chollerton, tenant formerly to the manor of Barlow. Also he gives to the poor of Chollerton town £5; to the poor of Withington forty shillings; and £20 to be added to the poor-stock of Manchester. Lastly he gives and bequeaths all the rest and remainder of his said personal estate to his said trustees and to his daughter Winifred, whom he appoints executors of this his last will and testament; and he hereby revokes all former wills. In witness whereof he has to this his will contained in two skins of parchment set his hand and seal this third day of August 1722. Witnesses, John Culcheth, Richard Chorley, Ralph Hilton.

On the death of Anthony Barlow Esq. the testator, in 1723, the estates appear to have descended to his eldest son Thomas, whose attainder had been by this time set aside. He married, but the name of his wife is not known. Sad differences arose between them, which involved other members of the family in the quarrel, and he ended his life in Lancaster Castle, where he was undergoing a term of imprisonment, the penalty awarded for an attempt to murder his wife. After his decease an action was com-

menced by his sister Winifred against his widow, who was charged with exhibiting a false and fraudulent inventory of the goods and chattels of her deceased husband. The depositions of witnesses summoned to substantiate the charge are dated March 6, 1734, and are as follows : —

Mary Barlow of Manchester, spinster, saith, that being sister of y^e deced^t in this cause, Thomas Barlow of Barlow Esq., she often saw in his life-time a silver watch he had, made by one Wolfhall of London, or some person of some such like name there, as she was told, w^{ch} her s^d brother very much valued and was much talked of and known in their family for its beauty and fine workmanship. That it was, before, y^e watch of S^r Edward Golding of Nottinghamshire deceased, her mother's brother, and that his widow either gave or sold it to her s^d brother. That it was a pattern (she has heard) of many other watches w^{ch} were sent and sold beyond sea at great rates. That her father, Anthony Barlow of Barlow Esq. deceased, had in his life-time a silver chalice doubly gilt, w^{ch}, wth y^e furniture of his chapel, was after his death sold by the said Winifred, one of his executors, to y^e deced^t in this cause, her brother, since whose death, to wit on y^e 8th of November last, the very same chalice (as she is well satisfied, having often seen it in her father's time) was at y^e old Coffee House in Manchester produced before S^r Oswald Mosley and this depon^t by her brother Mr. Edward Barlow upon occasion of clearing her s^d sister Winifred from an aspersion laid upon her of having taken it, and being weighed before she came into y^e company by a goldsmith, was found (as y^e s^d goldsmith afterw^{ds} told her) to be 14 oz. ten pennyweights, w^{ch}, at five shillings an ounce only, came to £3 12s. 6d.

Christian Harpur, spinster, deposed, that she lived as servant with y^e deced^t in this cause, Thomas Barlow of Barlow Esq. at Barlow, for about two years, ending a considerable time before his death ; and after his death wth his widow Mrs. Mary Barlow at Manchester, for about two years more. That she understood he, Mr. Barlow, was much in debt, in so much y^t he never or seldom

appeared out of y^e doors but on Sundays, and there was but poor housekeeping by y^t means whilst she staid there. That after she came to live wth her s^d mistress again at Manchester her mistress told her of her masters having attempted to shoot her wth a pistol, and shewed her a bullet w^{ch} he discharged at her (as she said) and a scar on y^e back of her head w^{ch} the bullet made, and she likewise told her that, soon after, he being confin'd for that in Lancaster Gaol, she went wth her children among her own relations into Lincolnshire and staid there till after his death about a twelve month.

Parry y^e Proctor, on y^e part of Winifred Barlow, propounds and alleges that the s^d Mary Barlow has concealed and omitted out of y^e s^d inventory several cane and set workchairs, several sheets and table-cloths, a family and valuable steel seal, a purple cloth bed and a white quilt, two pistols, a blue pillion and cloth &c. &c., and particularly one small Tabernacle, one Crucifix, one silver Chalice, one white satin Vestment, one Veil and two Cushions, all rich and laid up with gold and silver lace, one black silk Vestment, one Veil and two Cushions all laid up with silver lace, one red satin Vestment and one Veil laid up with gold lace, and two Cushions of red gilded leather; three Albs, one richly laced; Six Table-Cloths, Six Side Table-Cloths, one armed Chair covered with white ffustian and worked wth red worsted, and eight Cushions of yellow stuff.

In Mrs. Barlow's statement of monies paid by her on account of y^e deced are y^e followg items:—

Pd. Mr. Postlethwaite of Lancaster by y ^e hands of Mr. Broom, being a Book Debt owing by Mr. Barlow for money lent him.....	7	3	0
Pd. him for necessaries and attendance on Mr. B. in his sicknes	1	17	7
Pd. for y ^e use of y ^e Bed he lay on to the Gaoler of Lancaster	7	6	
Pd. for a Shroud and making	1	3	3

Pd. for 18 pair of gloves and y ^e Pall at his funeral	1	19	8
Pd. for a Coffin		16	0
Pd. for y ^e Church Dues and attendance at y ^e funeral and expenses.	1	15	8
Pd. Dr. Bracken's Bill for Physic	2	10	3
Pd. the Coroner's fee for his Inquest on y ^e Dead		13	4

On the 26th of September 1734 Mrs. Mary Barlow, in answer to the allegations on the part of Winifred Barlow, admits that her husband had a steel seal which cost ten shillings and sixpence cutting, and which was mislaid for some years after his death, and not found till of late, and therefore not inventoried; that the two pistols were never in the possession of her husband, though they might have been in the possession or belonged to her husband's father, and since his death kept by one Mr. Broom his steward till of late, for that she did never see the same till very lately that they were delivered to her by the said Mr. Broom; that her said husband had some time ago a pair of pistols with which he attempted to shoot and did really shoot at this respondent, and which she in the lifetime of her said husband sent away to London and sold them there. As to the pillion and cloth and the cloke-bag, the same being part of her own furniture for travelling, the same was taken by the appraisers as not to be properly inventoriable as part of her said husband's goods, but to belong purely to this respondent; that all the particulars mentioned in Article 8 are consecrated goods or ornaments belonging to the Popish chapel at Barlow, and are now kept together in a great trunk, all which, or the greater part thereof, are forbidden to be looked into or touched by the people of the Popish religion; that the said trunk was opened and everything therein shewn and discovered to the said appraisers at the time of their valuation, and were appraised by them, but by different names to what they are called or termed in the said Article, and are all comprehended in the fourteen last articles or items of the inventory.

William Fendown of Manchester, aged nineteen years, among other things, deposed that he has heard from his mistress that her husband Mr. Barlow once fired two pistols at the same time at her, and that she once gave him liberty to feel a large scar or wound which a bullet from one of them had made at the back of her head, and shewed him likewise the cap which she then had on and which was burnt and black with the fire or powder; for which fact this respondent has heard her say he was put into Lancashire gaol, and that after that she went into Lincolnshire with all her children, save one left at nurse, and staid there near a year, from whence, after her said husband's death, this respondent came down, a servant with her, into Lancashire, and hired with her in Manchester.

The judgment of the Court was that Mrs. Barlow had not exhibited a true inventory.

From these papers it would seem that Mr. Barlow died of the gaol fever in Lancaster Castle in 1729, in which year letters of administration of her late husband's effects were granted to his widow. He was succeeded in the estates by his eldest son Thomas, the last heir male of the family seated at Barlow. He married in 1760 a Miss Worrall, and dying without issue in March, 1773, was buried at the Collegiate Church, Manchester.

His will is dated November 6, 1771. He commends his soul to God, and his body to the earth, to be buried at the discretion of his executors. He wills that all his household goods, furniture, plate, linen, coach horses, cattle and all other personal estate be converted into money with all convenient speed after his decease, and that the proceeds be applied in aid of his real estate for the payment of his funeral and debts as far as the same will extend. And in case he should happen to die without issue, he gives and devises all that his capital messuage called Barlow Hall, with appurtenances, and all other his messuages, tenements, lands, &c. whatsoever and wheresoever, to Samuel Egerton of Tatton in the county of Chester Esq., William Tatton of Withenshaw in the said county of Chester Esq., John Houghton of Baguley in the

said county of Chester Esq., and Michael Walton of Manchester in the county of Lancaster, merchant, their heirs and assigns, upon trust, to the intent and purpose that they the said trustees apply the clear yearly rents &c. to the discharge of his wife's jointure or annuity according to the terms of a settlement previously made, and in payment of his sister's annuity according to his grant for that purpose, and in payment of such his debts as his personal estate shall fall short of satisfying, and also for the payment of the following annuities: — To his brother Humphrey Barlow £100 to be paid half-yearly until testator's debts shall have been discharged, and after such discharge of testator's debts then to pay to his said brother Humphrey an annuity of £200 out of the proceeds of the said estate during the remainder of his brother's life; and upon trust also to pay to his sister, the wife of Francis Bredall of Great Maddox-street in the county of Middlesex, apothecary, an annuity of £50 in case she should survive her husband and remain unmarried; and upon further trust for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and all and every son and sons of the body of his said brother Humphrey Barlow of Barlow, lawfully begotten, severally and successively, &c.; and in default of such issue then in trust for all and every the daughters of the body of his said brother Humphrey, lawfully begotten, &c.; and in default of such issue then in trust for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and all and every son and sons of the body of his nephew Thomas Bredall, eldest son of the said Francis Bredall, lawfully begotten, &c.; and in default of such issue, in trust for the first and other sons of the body of his nephew Charles Bredall, second son of the said Francis Bredall, lawfully begotten, they and every of them taking upon them and using the name of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust for the first and other sons of the body of his niece Mary Webb, the wife of — Webb of London, eldest daughter of the said Francis Bredall, every one of them taking and using the name of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust for the first and other sons of his niece Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the said Francis Bredall, taking upon them the name

of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust that they the said Samuel Egerton, William Tatton, John Houghton and Michael Walton shall and do, as soon as conveniently may be afterwards, sell and absolutely dispose of all and singular the said lands and hereditaments so devised, and pay and apply all the nett money to arise by sale thereof unto and amongst all and every the then next of kin of him the said Thomas Barlow; provided always that his said trustees do and shall, in case his said brother Humphrey and his said nephew Francis Bredall both die without issue, pay unto his said nephew Charles Bredall and his assign, in case he shall be then living, an annuity for life of £100, to commence from and immediately after the decease of the survivor of them his (testator's) said brother Humphrey and his said nephew Thomas Bredall without issue as aforesaid; and in case his said nephew Charles Bredall shall also happen to die without male issue, then that they the said trustees shall pay in like manner unto his said niece Mary Webb the like sum of £100 per annum, to commence from and immediately after the decease of the survivor of his said brother Humphrey and his said nephews Thomas and Charles Bredall without issue; and in case his said niece Mary Webb shall also happen to die without male issue as aforesaid, then that his executors pay in like manner to his said niece Elizabeth, the like annuity of £100. Provision is also made for the maintenance, education and bringing up of any such child or children to whom the estate is limited, in their minority. He also directs that all the residue of such rents and profits, after the payment of all his debts, and subject to all the said several annuities, shall be laid out by his trustees in the purchase of lands of inheritance near to the said trust premises, or otherwise placed out at interest for the benefit of such person as shall happen to be entitled to the said trust premises by virtue of this his will. He also releases his said brother-in-law Francis Bredall from the payment of the money that he may happen to owe him at the time of his death. He consigns his letters and papers to the care of the said Michael Walton in case he shall be living at the time of his decease, and

in case of his death to the said Mr. John Houghton, with power to preserve or destroy such of them as shall be thought proper. He empowers his said trustees to grant leases of his lands for terms not exceeding twenty-one years. He revokes all former wills, and appoints the said Samuel Egerton, William Tatton, John Houghton and Michael Walton his executors. The will was proved at Chester June 8, 1773. William Tatton Esq., John Houghton Esq. and Mr. Michael Walton renounced their executorship.

On the 2nd of August 1785, pursuant to an act of parliament obtained for the purpose, the Barlow estate was offered for sale by public auction, and was purchased by the Egertons of Tatton. Its yearly rental was estimated at £800. It is now vested in William Tatton Egerton Esq. M.P. of Tatton Park.



Barlow Hall, long the residence of the knightly family of that name, is interesting from its high antiquity rather than from any

distinctive merits it possesses in an architectural point of view. In the absence of any inscription or other like evidence it is difficult to assign any particular period as the date of its erection, but from its general characteristics it would seem to have been built at least so far back as the reign of Henry VIII. The original outline is in a great degree lost in the alterations and additions to which from time to time it has been subjected; but as far as can now be ascertained it consisted of an oblong pile of building comprising the great hall and entertaining rooms, with a wing projecting at right angles from the main structure, the latter containing the domestic offices and appropriated to the use of the servants and other retainers of the family. The quadrangle has since been completed by the addition of other buildings, but these are for the most part of comparatively modern date, and claim no particular notice. The hall itself and the offices immediately adjoining are built in that quaint half-timbered style so characteristic of the period to which they are referred. The framework consists of a number of vertical oaken timbers of the most substantial character, resting upon a foundation of solid masonry, connected by horizontal beams, and strengthened by diagonal bracing ribs firmly bolted into the main timbers, the interstices filled with a composition of plaster of lime and mud mixed with straw and laid upon laths. With the exception of one side of the court-yard but little of the timber-work now remains exposed to view, the greater portion having been coated with plaster, and now partially covered with ivy. In the interior the great hall, as it originally existed, was of truly noble proportions, occupying almost the entire of the main structure, and as was customary in the earlier period of the style, open to the roof. Its limits have since been circumscribed by the introduction of an inner ceiling, separating it into two stories, the lower story being now divided into three good entertaining rooms. The most interesting feature in connexion with the hall is a large oriel projecting from it, forming five sides of an octagon partially filled with stained glass, representing the armorial bearings of the Barlow family and their principal alliances. In one of the lights are the heads of a

double-headed eagle erased arg., the crest of the Barlows, with the motto PRIST EN FOYT. Near to this is a shield charged with the arms of Holland, azure semée of fleurs-de-lys a lion rampant arg. debruised by a bendlet gules. The most interesting coat is one placed near the centre of the window, evidently the arms of Edward Stanley third Earl of Derby, K.B. 1532 and K.G. 1547, Lord High Steward at the Coronation of Queen Mary, so celebrated for his magnificence and liberality that, according to Camden, "with Edward Earl of Derby's death, the glory of hospitality seemed to fall asleep." He died in 1572, having married to his second wife Margaret, daughter of Ellis Barlow of Barlow Esq. The shield, which is divided paleways, is without crest or motto, but is encircled by a garter with the motto of the order, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." Beneath is the date 1574, and the initial letters A.B. As the date given is two years later than the death of Edward Earl of Derby it is probable that these arms were inserted by Alexander Barlow Esq. to commemorate the marriage of his sister with the head of the house of Stanley, and this supposition is strengthened by the fact of the initial letters of his name accompanying the date. The dexter pale contains seventeen quarterings, including Stanley, Lathom, The Isle of Man, Harrington, Strange, Woodville, Whalley Abbey, Hooton, Ferrers, Goushill, Risley, &c. The sinister pale doubtless once exhibited the arms of Barlow, but these no longer remain, that portion of the shield being now blank. In the same window is another shield—Arg. a lion rampant gules, collared or. Near to this and within a circle is a coat consisting of seven quarterings, above which are the fragments of a helmet indicating that at some period the shield may have had the addition of a crest. The quarters are 1. Gules a fesse chequy az. and or. between three eagles displayed of the last. 2. Ermine a fesse azure. 3. Azure a cross or. 4. Argent three garbs gu. 5. Arg. on a cross az. five fleurs-de-lys or. 6. Or. a lion rampant guardant az. 7. Arg. three martlets gules.

Thomas de Barlow. —

Roger de Barlow. = Alicia

Thomas,
second son.

Roger de Barlow, = Agnes
 liv. 13 Edw. III.
 (1339.)

Thomas, — Marion
Margaret.

Roger de Barlow. =

John de Barlow. =

John de Barlow, =
liv. 4 Hen. VI.
(1425.)

Nicholas de Barlow, =
liv. 29 Hen. VI.
(1450.)

Alexander de Barlow, = Elizabeth, dau. of Richard Assheton of Mersey bank Esq.
nupt. 13 Hen. VI.
(1434.)

..... dau. of Ellis Prestwich = Roger Barlow Esq.
of Hulme Esq. vixit 18 Hen.
VII.

Ellis Barlow Esq. = Anne, dau. of Otes Reddish
of Reddish Esq.

Anne, dau. of Sir Piers Dutton² = Edmund Barlow Esq.¹ =
of Dutton Knt. and relict of
Hannet Massey of Sale.
.....dau. of
Jackson of Man-
chester.

Alexander Barlow Esq. = Elizabeth, dau. of Manchester of West Hall Ormerod, vol. Dec. 26, 1583.

Margaret,
wife of Edward
Stanley, 3rd Earl
of Derby.

Elizabeth, dau.¹ of Sir Alexander Barlow, knight, at 26, 27, Eliz.; knighted by Jas. I. in 1603 at Whitehall; bur. at Coll. Ch. Manchester, April 21, 1620; will dat. April 14, 1617.

Mary, wife of
John Leigh
youngson
of Richard
Leigh of
West Hall,
High Legh,
Esq.

Margaret, wife of Elizabeth. Jane.

Anne, wife of
Richard Hal-
sall of Hal-
sall; mar.cov.
dat. 2, 3 Phi-
lip and Mary.

Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Edward Parker, Lord Morley and Montague.
 Esq. liv. April 1617; proved at Chester in 1642; bur. at Coll. Ch. July 6, 1642.

Alexander Barlow = Frances, dau. of William Breton of Ashley Esq. and sister and coheir-ess of her brother Thomas Breton Esq.
 Esq. liv. April 1617; succeeded by his brother Thomas about 1654; s.p.

Dorothy, liv. April 1631; wife of James Gorsuch Esq. of Gorsuch Esq.
 Katherine, liv. April 1631; wife of Henry Norris of West Derby.

Margaret, bapt. at Didsbury Sept. 16, 1581; liv. 1617; wife of Sir John Talbot of Salesbury Knt.

George, bapt. at Didsbury March 4, 1581-82; liv. 1617.

Jane, bapt. at Didsbury July 21, 1580.
 Katharine, ob. Dec. 26, 1636; bur. at Breve, co. Essex, s.p.

Edward, bapt. at Didsbury Nov. 30, 1585; suffered at Lancaster for his religion Sept. 10, 1641.

Robert, liv. April 1617.
 Frances, liv. April 1617.

Dorothy, dau. of Sir Thomas Gresley of Drakelove Bart., liv. April 4, 1631.

Thomas Barlow = Winifred, dau. of Anthony Esq., at 46 in 1684; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 1, 1684.

Anne, a nun of St. Clare; bapt. at Didsbury Nov. 1620; liv. in Dec. 1686.

Mary, = Caryl Molyneux, Visct. Molyneux. liv. April 1631.

Elizabeth, 4th wife of Thomas Vaynor of Weston, co. York; liv. April 1631.

Henry, bapt. at Didsbury June 27, 1619.
 William, bapt. at Coll. Ch. March 25, and bur. there April 1, 1622.

Thomas Barlow, at 6, 1664.

Alexander Barlow.

Anthony Barlow of Barlow = Esq.; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 10, 1723; will dat. Aug. 3, 1722, and proved at Chester May 24, 1733.

Mary, executrix of her sister Winifred's will. of Sir Edward Goulding, co. Notts; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 6, 1715.

Mary, executrix of her sister Winifred's will.

Winifred Barlow; will dat. Dec. 6, 1686, and proved at Chester 1688; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 17, 1688.

Thomas Barlow = Mary, dau. of James Barlow; died of small pox April 24, 1761, at 75 years. bur. at Coll. Ch. June 19, 1718.

Winifred; bur. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 11, 1733; executrix of her father's will.

Mary, bur. at Coll. Ch. Oct. 18, 1735.

Edward Barlow.

Anthony Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 1, 1722. Administration granted to his sister Winifred Nov. 10, 1722, his father renouncing.

Elizabeth.

Charles Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 16, 1698.

4 John Barlow, mentioned in his father's will.
 5 Roger Barlow, mentioned in his father's will.

Thomas Barlow of Barlow = Esq.; died March 3, 1773, in his 54th year; bur. at Coll. Ch. March 5; will dat. Nov. 6, 1771, and proved at Chester June 8, 1773; s.p.

..... dau. of Worrall; mar. Dec. 11, 1780.

Humphrey Barlow, set 16, July 17, 1742, when his title was granted to his brother Thomas.

A daughter; mar. to Francis Bredall of London, apothecary; named in her brother's will.

Mary Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 1, 1754.

The earliest Population Returns for Chorlton-cum-Hardy are in the year 1714, at which time the township contained 65 families, or about 325 individuals; of these families 14 were dissenters. In 1774 no great increase in the numbers had taken place; the houses comprehended in the same limits were but 71, and these were tenanted by 75 families, or 378 individuals; of whom one hundred and forty-seven were under the age of 15; sixty-nine above 50; seventeen above 60; ten above 70, and two above 80. In 1801 the inhabitants numbered 513; in 1811, 619; in 1821, 624; in 1831, 668; in 1841, 632; and in 1851, 761. From a stray leaf of the transcript of the Chapel Registers deposited in the Diocesan Registry at Chester it appears that the number of baptisms solemnized at Chorlton Chapel in 1639 was eleven. In 1655, 42 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, including Mr. Barlow of Barlow £2 8s. 4d.; John Barlow, James Chorleton, Mr. Moseley of Birch House, Henry Rigbie, &c. The aggregate rate paid is not given. In 1854 the number of rate-payers in the township was 139, and the total amount of rate collected was £303 17s. 9d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, as assessed to the land-tax, was £236 15s.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,941; in 1829, £4,314; in 1841, £4,579; and in 1853, £4,241. The returns for the latter year were, however, subjected to a deduction not previously made of one-twelfth from lands and one-sixth from buildings.

Chorlton contained, in 1854, twenty-seven county voters. There were in the same year three public-houses and three beerhouses. It has no colliery, railway or canal; no mill or manufactory of any description, being almost entirely agricultural.

The area of the township, as given by Rickman in the Population Returns of 1831, is 1,400 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 1,249 acres; the Tithe Commissioners, in the Census Returns of 1851, at 1,265 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 1,279a. 2r. 35p.

In 1845 there were twenty-three landowners in the township.

Of these the chief were Wilbraham Egerton Esq., who owned 887a. 2r. 12p. and George Lloyd Esq. 231a. 1r. 18p. Assuming the area of the township to be 1,210 acres, it was thus divided : — Arable land, 490 acres ; meadow and pasture, 680 acres ; wood, 10 acres ; roads, &c., 30 acres.

Chorlton-cum-Hardy is in the Poor-law Union of Chorlton, and is one of the twelve townships composing that union, — Ardwick, Burnage, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Didsbury, Gorton, Hulme, Levenshulme, Moss-side, Openshaw, Rusholme and Withington. The workhouse is situated locally in the last-named township, and has been recently erected. It is surrounded by a sufficient quantity of land to afford a labour-test to which to subject the applicants for relief. The extent of land originally purchased was 24a. 1r. 15p., to which 35a. 1r. 27p. have since been added at a cost of £7,929. The cost of the workhouse itself, including that of the land originally purchased and exclusive of the fittings, was £34,927 16s. 4d. The fittings, including steam, water and gas provision, filtering apparatus, lavatories, &c., £3,555 8s. 1d. ; architect's commission, salary of clerk of the works, &c., £2,903 0s. 2d. The entire cost, exclusive of the second purchase of land, being £45,519 11s. 1d. The total population of the Chorlton union is 130,000, and the house is calculated to accommodate 1,576 inmates.

In its ecclesiastical relations, Chorlton was tributary to Manchester, lying within the limits of that parish, and paying tithe to the Warden and Fellows as rectors thereof.

In the reign of Elizabeth, Alexander Barlow Esq. farmed the tithes of Chorlton, and was in 1566 plaintiff in a suit at Lancaster, in which Thomas Herle, Warden of Manchester was defendant, this being one of the many actions entered against him for his mismanagement of the estates of the church over which he presided, and for his injustice towards the parties with whom he entered into contracts.

In 1701 the tithes of the township were leased by the Warden and Fellows, but the name of the lessee is not given ; and as

Stretford and Trafford are united with it in the return, no inference can be drawn as to what proportion of the £65 1s. 4d., the rent paid, was due from Chorlton. In addition to this, Mr. Barlow paid £19 as lessee of the tithes chargeable on his own demesne of Barlow. In 1848 the rent-charge of the township payable in lieu of tithes was £173 17s. 6d., exclusive of £9 0s. 6d. claimed by the impropiator (the Rev. R. M. Fielden.)

The original chapel at Chorlton was erected in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. about the year 1512. It was a quaint-looking structure in that picturesque, half-timbered style so common amongst the domestic buildings of the period, though rarely adopted in those of an ecclesiastical character. The details were for the most part marked by extreme simplicity, and in form and general external appearance it bore a striking resemblance to the ancient chapel at Denton erected about the same period, and still in existence. The plan was rectangular, with a chancel at the eastern end. The basement, to the height of about eighteen inches above the ground, was of solid masonry, and on this rested the principal timbers of the building, connected by horizontal beams, and strengthened by diagonal bracing ribs. The roof was rather acute in pitch, and with a view of affording greater protection from the elements, the eaves were extended some distance beyond the outer surface of the walls. The several gables were protected by barge-boards, and, as was customary in this style, were each surmounted at the apex by a hip-knob. The windows were plain, square-headed and placed at irregular intervals along the side, a three-light window of similar character lighting the eastern gable of the chancel. The main entrance was by an arched doorway at the western end of the south side, and over it and against the wall was placed a sun-dial. A small bell-cot surmounted the western gable. In 1779 the old chapel was taken down, and the following year a plain unsightly structure of brick was erected in its stead. This building being found inadequate to the wants of the people, was in 1837 enlarged by the addition of north and south aisles, by which two hundred additional sittings were gained. It

calls for no particular notice. As already stated, it is of brick, without any pretensions to architectural excellence. Like the older edifice which it superseded, it is rectangular in form, lighted on either side by three circular-headed windows, a small brick tower flanking the western gable, the lower stage of which constitutes the main entrance to the chapel.

Of the early founder we can but conjecture, having no certain knowledge; and it is no slight discouragement to the investigator into its past annals that not a single document or memorandum relating either to the chapel itself or to its ministers has survived, the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials alone remaining in the hands of the rector, and of these some of the volumes are lost, the earliest still deposited in the chapelry-chest commencing as recently as the year 1737. We shall not perhaps assume more than the facts of the case will justify if we ascribe its foundation to the family of Barlow, which was the great and almost only family of influence in the township.

It its earlier years it would be associated with the services of the Roman Catholic religion, shortly afterwards yielding to the new state of things introduced by the Reformation. It would lapse again into Popery under Queen Mary, and would finally be restored to Protestantism under Elizabeth, its founders meanwhile continuing steadfast in their adherence to the ancient and unreformed faith.

In the first year of the reign of Queen Mary (1553) Chollerton Chapel within Manchester parish is named in a commission issued from the Duchy Court of Lancaster, addressed in the Queen's name to Sir Richard Sherburne Knt. This commission recites a former enactment of the 7 Edward VI., the object of which was to enquire, search and survey what lands, tenements, bells, chalices, plate, jewels, stocks of kine, sheep, money and other things belonging to chantries in the county of Lancaster ought to have come to the said king by the force of the act of parliament in that case made and provided; and then proceeds to say that divers bells, &c. in several parishes (and amongst others in Manchester

parish that of Chollerton Chapel is named) had not come into his hands by virtue of such former commission, the parishioners still retaining the same. The design, therefore, of her majesty's present commission was to direct enquiry to be made what bells, &c. so remained in the parishioners' hands according to an inventory with such commission.¹

In 1573, in common with the other chapels in Manchester parish, Chorlton Chapel was included in certain injunctions given to the Master or Warden of the Collegiate Church by the Archbishop of York and other the Queen's Majesty's commissioners "about residence of the Warden and Fellows, and diligent and constant preaching every Sunday in the church of Manchester or in one of the chapels."²

No district was at any time formally assigned to Chorlton Chapel; and as one of the four chapels within the manor of Withington (the others being those of Didsbury, Birch and Denton) its utility was probably limited to the township in which it was situated, unless indeed in early times it shared with Didsbury the inhabitants of Birch before the erection of a chapel in that immediate neighbourhood.

Thus erected, an endowment, always scanty, was provided, consisting of certain sums given for the support of a resident minister, the money to be lent out at interest, and the proceeds to be applied for the minister's maintenance. In 1650 this fund, or church-stock as it was called, amounted to £69; it belonged jointly to the chapel and a schoolmaster. Mr. Benson the curate had "received some allowance from the sequestrations, but that had ceased although he was compliant with the demands of the ruling powers."³

From a return made to the Bishop of Chester (Gastrell) in 1704 the annual income of the curate was £1 15s., being the interest of money left. There was more, but £80 was lost by a tradesman in Manchester, to whom it had been lent.

¹ *Ducatus Lancastriae*, vol. ii. p. 138. ² Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, pp. 82, 83.

³ Lansdowne MSS. 459, fo. 5.

In 1717 the Rev. Joseph Dale was curate of Chorlton ; he stated that the inhabitants contributed £10 a year towards his maintenance.

In 1723 the chapel was augmented with the sum of £200.

In 1835 the annual value was returned at £103, arising from £400 private benefactions and £600 derived from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. These amounts have been invested in the purchase of land, and in 1855 the sources of income of the chapel were returned as follows :— A farm situated at Bramhall in the county of Chester, value £60 per annum ; another farm in Northen Etchells in the same county, value £32 per annum, together with the two sums £200 and £600 in the funds (three per cent) held by the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the benefit of the Incumbent.

The chapel is dedicated to St. Clement, and is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, whose predecessors appear to have exercised an undisputed right of patronage. It was returned in 1850 as a District Chapelry under 59 George III. c. 134, the chapel containing 521 sittings, 200 of which were free. In 1673 two Wardens were chosen who served for the two hamlets, namely Chorlton and Hardy within the manor of Withington.

Schools in connexion with the chapel were originally erected in 1817, by voluntary contributions, on a site subsequently conveyed in 1843 by George Lloyd Esq. of Stockton Hall near York, together with a cottage for the teacher's residence and a garden annexed. These schools were taken down in 1845, and new and more commodious premises erected by the Rev. W. Birley, the incumbent, aided by two grants of £150 from the Committee of Council on Education, and £75 from the National Society. They are in the Tudor style of Gothic architecture, built of brick with mullions and dressings of stone. Over the centre doorway is the inscription, "St. Clement's Sunday and Day Schools, erected by private subscription A.D. 1817 ; rebuilt A.D. 1845."

A small chapel was opened by the Wesleyans in 1805, but in 1826, being found to be too small to accommodate the congrega-

tion, it was resolved to rebuild it on the same site, which was accordingly done at a cost of £689. Its chief promoters were a family named Brundrett. The site (540 square yards) was given by Mr. Jeremiah Brundrett. The chapel is of brick, and is 36 feet by 30 feet. It contains 274 sittings, 100 of which are free.

The names of the earlier ministers who officiated at Chorlton have been irrecoverably lost. We find no allusion to any of them of a date earlier than 1598. In the Visitation returns of that year (September 13) the chapel is thus referred to:—“Chowlerton Chapel, no curate but a reader who keepeth a school.” At the Visitation of 1604 the Lector or Reader at Cholreton Chapel, Roger Worthington by name, was reported to the Bishop for letting out money on usury. On being summoned to appear he confessed “that he lent out iiij^{li} after ij^s in y^e pound and not above.” He was enjoined to pay to y^e poor mans box at Cholreton ij^s and to refraine hereafter. Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who died in 1612, left the sum of £100 to be paid in annual instalments of £5 to a schoolmaster who should teach school at Chollerton Chapel, the said schoolmaster “to reade praire three tymes e^vie week in the said chapell.” On the 7th of July 1617 John Dickenson was licensed as Reader and Schoolmaster of Chorlton. Thus the earlier ministers of the chapel, as far as can now be ascertained, were not from the ranks of the regularly ordained clergy, but men of inferior position and education, who united in their individual persons the office of Reader in the chapel and Schoolmaster of the village, the endowment being too scanty (if indeed any existed at all) to provide for the wants of a resident curate duly qualified. In 1636 the Rev. John Bradshaw was curate of Chorlton, where he remained until 1639, being appointed in that year to succeed the Rev. John Davenport at Didsbury Chapel. He died in 1645, and was buried at Didsbury. On the resignation of Mr. Bradshaw in 1639 the Rev. John Pollett was nominated to the chapel, and signs in that year the transcripts of the registers annually sent to the Episcopal Registry at Chester. It was during Mr. Pollett’s incumbency at Chorlton that the

Presbyterian form of church government was established by law, and commended to general observance. Mr. Pollett refusing to accommodate his teaching to the new order of things, was "teazed, harassed and at length (in 1647) dispossessed" by the Second Lancashire Classis.¹ The specific charges brought against him were that he maintained episcopacy, and defended the use of the surplice and Book of Common Prayer. A Mr. John Pollett was curate of Prestwich from 1640 to 1647, but the cures lie too wide asunder to render it probable that the same person is intended; doubtless there were two of the same name. In 1658 a Mr. Pollitt was "minister of God's word" at Milnrow in the parish of Rochdale.

On the dismissal of Mr. Pollett, the Rev. Richard Benson was appointed curate. Scarcely had he entered on his duties when he found himself at variance with the elders of his congregation, and on January 6, 1647-48, Mr. Benson summoned them before the classis on a charge of using "railing words." The following depositions were taken:—John Hoult saith hee was in y^e lower end of y^e chapel and cannot speak anything materiall to y^e questions propounded. John Warburton saith y^t there was some rayling words betwixt Mr. Benson and y^e elders at Chollerton, but hee went forth of y^e chappell and remembereth not y^e words. George Jackson saith hee knoweth not of any rayling words Mr. Benson gave to y^e elders. Nathaniel Taylor saith that Mr. Benson having read a note in Chorlton Chappell, James Chorlton said he lyed, and then he heard Mr. Benson say to James Chorlton that hee was a dishonest man. James Chorlton, when called upon to answer the allegations, acknowledged that he had wronged Mr. Benson, "giving him y^e lye as y^e said Mr. Benson was in y^e pulpit;" and expressed his regret for what he had done; this he was ordered to do by the classis. Mr. Benson held the curacy of Chorlton until his death, which occurred in 1651. He is described by the Parliamentary Commission of 1650 as "a painfull godly preaching minister."² He was buried (May 27) at Stretford.

¹ Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, pp. 40 and 421.

² Lansdowne MSS. 459, fo. 5.

His successor, the Rev. John Adcroft, was curate of Stretford Chapel, which he had held for about two years before his removal to Chorlton, and during that brief space seems to have given offence to the classis by his disregard of their authority. In November 1649 a summons was issued to compel his presence at the next classical meeting, and in the following January Mr. Hollingworth is "desired to confer with Mr. Odcroft y^e preacher at Stretford." On the 13th of May 1651, Evan Clarke is requested to go to Mr. Adcroft, and to tell him that the class expects his attendance the second Tuesday in June next, and also to speak to Mr. Benson to see what he can say concerning the course Mr. Adcroft holds in making clandestine weddings, baptizing children, and concerning his life and conversation. At the following classical meeting, June 10, Evan Clarke brought Mr. Adcroft's answer in writing; its consideration was deferred until the next meeting. At the next meeting, July 8, Mr. Warden was desired to request the assistance of some justice of the peace in relation to ordinance of parliament concerning Mr. Adcroft's contempt of the class. It was also then agreed that warrants be sent forth to desire some witnesses to come before the class to testify what they can concerning Mr. Adcroft. The further consideration of the matter at the next meeting, August 12, was postponed in consequence of the inability of Mr. Warden to be present; from which time there is no further allusion to his imputed delinquency, and Mr. Adcroft is removed from Stretford to Chorlton. His residence at Chorlton seems to have continued for about three years, and to have terminated in 1654. The next minister in succession was Mr. James Jackson B.A., who immediately followed Mr. Adcroft. For upwards of a year he officiated as curate, though unordained, and it was not till July 5, 1655, that he received orders, which were conferred at Chorlton Chapel. Mr. Rathband of Prestwich preached on the occasion; Mr. Meeke of Salford gave the exhortation; Mr. Constantine of Oldham and Mr. Seddon prayed. Mr. Jackson continued to fill the cure till starved into a relinquishment of it by the want of liberality on the part of his hearers. The classis,

unwilling to accept his resignation, appointed February 23, 1657-8 for the consideration of his case. The result of their deliberations is thus recorded: — “Mr. Jackson, minister of Chorlton, being upon some motions for his removal from that place in respect of the shortness of his maintenance, which was manifest to the class. But several of the people appearing and declaring the good success Mr. Jackson (through God’s blessing) hath had in his ministry since his coming thither, and that the people was generally inclined to an earnest desire of his continuance, the class appointed several ministers to go to the said people of Chorlton to endeavour to accommodate the business so that Mr. Jackson might be continued amongst them. The day appointed was March 31, in the afternoon about two of the clock. Mr. Harrison was desired to preach a sermon to the people upon the meeting; Mr. Heyrick, Mr. Angier and Mr. Newcome were desired to meet Mr. Harrison there for the end aforesaid. On the 13th of April 1658, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Newcome gave an account of the meeting at Chorlton according to the order of the last class; and the result of it was that agreement was made between Mr. Jackson and the people there that Mr. Jackson should continue there for one year more, and that the people should engage to make up the augmentation of £35 per annum £50, for the which addition Joshua Taylor, Jonathan Gee, James Parkinson, Henry Mason, John Harrison and Richard Barlow did engage themselves at the said meeting; as also to use their utmost endeavour to procure what was in arrear by virtue of former covenants to the aforesaid Mr. Jackson; as also to do what they could for a further addition of £5 more to the foresaid £50 for the present year; and that in case the £15 was not paid according to this agreement that then Mr. Jackson should be free to remove by consent of the people at the year’s end, upon the classis hearing and judging of such default by them made, — which agreement was approved by the present classe.¹ It is presumed the inhabitants fulfilled their

¹ Account of the Proceedings of the First Presbyterian Classis; a MS. in the Chetham Library, Manchester.

pledge since Mr. Jackson was still resident amongst them in October 1662, and yet later. Certain entries, already alluded to, in the Didsbury Registers, relating to the interment of Mary and Ellen, daughters of the Rev. James Jackson, minister, in the years 1658 and 1666 respectively, lend some slight countenance to the supposition that he was curate also of Didsbury at the same time, but this is mere conjecture. In 1672 one Mr. Richardson, who "preached the sermon at six o'clock on the Lord's day morning at Manchester," was officiating at Chorlton. He was, says Calamy,¹ "a competent scholar and a pious man. He preached by virtue of a license in 1672 at Chorlton, and was very laborious in his Master's work; he died in 1680." The next minister whose name occurs is the Rev. Joshua Hyde. He was exercising the office of Reader or Curate at Chorlton in the year 1691, combining with it probably that of schoolmaster since he was at that time, if not wholly unordained, at least only in deacon's orders. In May 1691 he was nominated by Sir John Egerton on the recommendation of the Warden of Manchester, to the curacy of Denton, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Roger Dale, a request being made at the same time to the Bishop that he would ordain Mr. Hyde, to which he consented. For the next twenty-five years there is a chasm in the list of curates, of which the only explanation that can be offered is that of Warden Wroe, who writing in 1707, and alluding to the chapels of Chorlton and Stretford, speaks of them as having no settled curates for want of endowment. Next follows the Rev. John Thomas B.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford. He was nominated to Chorlton June 26, 1716, by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester, his nomination being signed by the Rev. Richard Wroe, Warden, Roger Bolton and Robert Assheton, Fellows. Mr. Thomas was a native of Chester, and was ordained to Chorlton. In the following year the Rev. Joseph Dale was curate. He held also the neighbouring chapel of Birch. He stated that the inhabitants of Chorlton contributed but £10 a year to his maintenance. Again occurs a break in the chain of succession,

¹ *Abridgment*, vol. ii. p. 99.

and in 1754 the Rev. Robert Oldfield is found discharging the office of curate, and signing in that capacity the transcript of the registers forwarded to Chester. He filled also the office of Librarian at the Chetham Hospital in Manchester from 1726 to 1732, and retiring from Chorlton in 1766 was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Assheton M.A. one of the Fellows of Manchester, whose nomination bears date September 13, and is signed by himself as proxy for the Warden, and by the Revs. John Clayton, Thomas Aynscough and Maurice Griffith, Fellows. From the terms of the nomination itself it is to be inferred that Mr. Assheton's predecessor at Chorlton was the Rev. Thomas Beeley, who resigned the chapel, but as the document is endorsed "The Warden and Fellows' nomination of the Rev. Richard Assheton, one of the Fellows to Chorlton Chapel, vacant by the resignation of Robert Oldfield, late Curate," we are left in doubt. Mr. Assheton retired from the curacy in 1771, and was followed by the Rev. John Salter. His nomination is signed by Samuel Peploe, Warden, John Clayton, Thomas Aynscough, Richard Assheton and Maurice Griffith, Fellows. Mr. Salter died at Chorlton in 1789, and was succeeded by the Rev. Joshua Brookes M.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford. Mr. Brookes was of humble parentage, being the son of a shoemaker at Cheadle Hulme near Stockport, and was baptized at Stockport May 19, 1754. His father, Thomas Brookes, was a cripple of uncouth mien, eccentric manners and great violence of temper; and it is supposed that the possession of these attributes had gained for him the sobriquet of Pontius Pilate. A story has survived, exhibiting in a striking point of view the impetuosity of his temper. Sitting at his door, as was his habit in his later years, the strangeness of his appearance (one invariable article of dress being a red night-cap) attracted the notice of a market-woman who chanced to pass that way, and who in passing addressed to him some rude remark. Eager for revenge and yet unable to follow her by reason of his lameness, he despatched his servant for a sedan-chair, wherein he was conveyed to the market-place, and having singled out the

object of his indignation, proceeded to belabour her with his crutch with such hearty good-will that a constable's interference was needed to restore peace. He removed his residence from Cheadle Hulme to Manchester whilst Joshua was yet a child, and rented a room at a place called Sot's Hole, behind Ridgefield, whence afterwards he changed to a similar apartment over a gateway in Deansgate, near the Three Arrows Inn, and finally rented a house in a passage in Long Millgate, opposite the residence of Mr. Lawson, at that time High Master of the Grammar School. At the Manchester school Joshua received his education, and being a boy of quick parts was much noticed by the Rev. Thomas Aynscough, one of the Fellows of the Collegiate Church, by whose assistance and that of others of his fellow-townsmen his father was enabled to send him to Oxford, where in due course he graduated (M.A. 1771). In 1782 he was ordained to the stipendiary curacy of Chorlton by Letters Dimissory to the Bishop of Lichfield. His examination for orders was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Hind, Vicar of Rochdale, who under the date October 20, 1782, thus addresses the Bishop of Chester:—

My Lord, — On Thursday last I received the honour of your commands, and yesterday I saw Mr. Brooks. On my examination of him I found that he had not read the books required by your lordship. I asked him some questions, to which his answers were pertinent, and you will see by the enclosed that his translations are *tolerable*, and truly *his own*; but as he had not prepared himself agreeably to your printed directions (for which he pleaded his ignorance of those directions till very lately) and begged his examination might be considered as in part adjourned to the last moment of time that was left to him before the ordination, I readily complied with his request, and am to see him again.

The examination-paper alluded to is Grotius *De Veritate*, Book 2, Sect. vi. In 1783 he was admitted to Priest's Orders by the Bishop of Chester. On the 10th of August 1789 he was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to the perpetual curacy of Chorlton, vacant by the death of the Rev. John Salter, his nomination being

signed by Richard Assheton, Warden, Thomas Aynscough, Maurice Griffith and James Bayley, Fellows. He resigned Chorlton December 23, 1790, on being appointed to a chaplaincy in the Collegiate Church, and dying in November 1821, was buried (November 11) within the Collegiate Church. Much of the father's mental constitution was inherited by the son, in whom however the force of education tended to keep such eccentricities and sudden outbursts of temper in partial check. Many anecdotes are related of his peculiarities, which in him passed almost unnoticed. Whilst reading the burial service he would not unfrequently leave the grave-side, and proceed to the shop of a confectioner in Half-street, overlooking the church-yard, and having procured a supply of horehound drops, would return to his neglected duties, and conclude the service. Another story, too irreverent to be more than alluded to, having reference to a certain interpolation of the burial service, furnished the subject of a caricature, which obtained considerable currency; but this exceeding the fair limits of satire entailed a prosecution upon its author, and a pecuniary fine.

He was at one time an assistant master of the Grammar School. He died unmarried.

On the 17th January 1791 the Rev. Nicholas Mosley Cheek was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to Chorlton Chapel, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Joshua Brookes. His nomination was signed by Richard Assheton, Warden, T. Aynscough, Maurice Griffith and James Bayley, Fellows. In 1796 he appointed the Rev. Roger Mashiter Stipendiary Curate, and in 1801 the Rev. Samuel Stephenson M.A., each of them receiving an annual stipend of £40. He died in 1805.

Mr. Cheek's successor was the Rev. George Hutchinson M.A., who was nominated by the Warden and Fellows October 30, 1805, the nomination being signed by Thomas Blackburn, John Griffith and C. W. Ethelston. The Rev. Samuel Stephenson continued there as stipendiary curate, and in 1807 George Holt, a literate person, was ordained as his successor, being himself followed in

1812 by the Rev. John Collins. In 1816, Mr. Hutchinson having resigned, the Rev. Richard Hutchins Whitelock M.A. Vicar of Skillington in the county of Lincoln and Stipendiary Curate of St. Mark's, Cheetham, was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to Chorlton, to which he was licensed January 5, 1816. His nomination was signed by Thomas Blackburn, Warden, John Gatliff and C. W. Ethelston, Fellows. Mr. Whitelock added to his other preferments the somewhat incongruous office of post-master of Manchester. He died August 14, 1833. On the death of Mr. Whitelock the Rev. Peter Hordern M.A., son of the Rev. Joseph Hordern, formerly Curate of Prestwich and subsequently Incumbent of Shaw, was preferred to the vacant chapel, his nomination being signed by C. D. Wray, Vice-Warden, Oswald Sergeant and Richard Parkinson, Fellows. He was of Brazenose College, Oxford, and was appointed to an exhibition there on the Hulme foundation in 1820. In 1821 he received the appointment of Librarian at the Chetham Hospital, Manchester, which he held till 1834. He died March 28, 1836. The next Incumbent in succession was the Rev. John Morton B.D., whose nomination bears date April 12, 1836, and is signed by T. Calvert, Warden, J. Gatliff, C. D. Wray, Oswald Sergeant and Richard Parkinson, Fellows. Dr. Morton died December 27, 1842, and was succeeded by the Rev. William Birley M.A., the present Incumbent, the date of whose nomination under the hand of the Dean and Chapter is February 17, 1843.

The following is a list of the Curates of Chorlton Chapel as far as their names can now be recovered :—

- 1598 No Curate but a Reader.
- 1604 Roger Worthington, Reader.
- 1617 John Dickenson, Reader.
- 1636, 1639 John Bradshaw.
- 1639-1647 John Pollett.
- 1647-1651 Richard Benson.
- 1651-1654 John Adcroft.
- 1654, 1666 James Jackson.

- 1672, — Richardson.
 -1691 Joshua Hyde.
 1716- John Thomas.
 1717, Joseph Dale.
 1754, 1766 Robert Oldfield.
 1766-1771 Richard Assheton.
 1771-1789 John Salter.
 1789-1790 Joshua Brookes.
 1790-1805 Nicholas Mosley Cheek.
 1805-1816 George Hutchinson.
 1816-1833 Richard Hutchins Whitelock.
 1833-1836 Peter Hordern.
 1836-1842 John Morton.
 1842- William Birley.

In 1644, upon the Presbyterian form of church government being established throughout England by ordinance of Parliament, lay elders were chosen by each congregation to assist the minister in the discharge of his function. The duties incident to the office of elder trenching considerably on those of the more formally ordained minister it was necessary that the choice to be exercised at such elections should be made with becoming caution.

For Chorlton Chapel one James Parkinson was chosen ruling elder, against whom, in February 1646, certain exceptions were tendered before the First Lancashire Classis by Nathaniel Taylor. His accusation, with proof, was ordered to be taken at the next meeting of the classis, which accordingly was done March 16, 1646-7.

Accusation against James Parkinson, presented by Nathaniel Taylor.

1. That hee is guilty of fornication ; to ground w^{ch} is produced y^e register of Ashton-under-line, Mr. Stirrups hand, of a daughter *genita ante nuptias*, also a sonne borne within twenty seven weeks after marriage. Thus far y^e register.

William Thomas saith that he caryed monye for James Par-

kinson 8^s 8^d to the commissioners, but knows not for what.

2. To the accusation of slander, Will. Hurbboat saith that James Parkinson said (coming by some work), This work stands in much money, but it is no matter if ould Mr. Brion were living, that hee (meaning S^r W^m Brereton) might rob him againe as he hath done here at y^e choosing of knights for the shire.

Another time at goeing for New England, Richard Taylor witnesseth the same thing.

3. To the accusation of swearing, Thomas Blomiley saith he heard him swear and curse above two years.

Nathaniel Taylor saith he heard him swear by his faith not within a year.

4. To the accusation of voilence, James Charlton saith he cast a pot and a flagon at the face of another man (within a year), the said Thomas Parkinson being first called a knave.

Thomas Blomiley saith he struck his daughter.

5. To the accusation of undue election, Mr. Benson and Nathaniel Taylor objected.

It was ordered by the classis that Parkinson bring his witnesses at their next meeting.

On the 14th April, 1647, James Parkinson produced witnesses for his defence.

George Scoales saith y^t he knoweth not y^t ever y^e said Parkinson had any child by the said woman (whereof he is accused before marriage); that she lived neere to him afterwards.

James Parkinson confesseth y^t y^e child was borne upon New Yeares Daye about eight weeks before time.

James Chorlton and *John Barlow*, elders of Chorlton, next deputed by y^e classis to examine *Ellen Hurbboate* (not able to come to y^e classis) concerning a second born to the s^d Parkinson upon y^e s^d New Yeares Day; that it was borne without haire or nayles; that shée considered it was borne before time.

Jane Jones exēd, saith that shee saw y^e s^d child within a day y^t it was borne, and y^t it was very weak, could not suck of about eight weeks, and she believeth y^t it was borne about eight weeks before time.

William Arstall (to y^e matter of slander) saithe that hee was present when y^e s^d Parkinson spoke some words concerning S^r W^m Brereton, w^{ch} were theese: That S^r W^m Brereton could not have all, for (if it were true y^t Grantham said) one trunk was gone to New England, another was gone to y^e Shortinge [?]; that one of y^e witnesses y^t went to complain to S^r W^m Brereton was in drink when he went.

Margery Knight ex^d ag^{tt} James Parkinson, saith y^t the said woman wth wh. y^e said Parkinson was accused (whose name was Joane Jones) was mother of this exaīat, and at nineteen years of this examine age told her y^t y^e said Parkinson had held her hands behind her and had abused her; that shee very often complained of this Parkinson for the s^d fact; that y^e s^d Parkinson's father reported her to bee with child presently after.

On the 12th of May, to which day the further consideration of the case had been adjourned, James Parkinson produced another witness in his defence.

Ralph Barlow of Ashton de Mersy Bank, examined, saith that Joane Warburton, afterwards Joane Jones, was a light woman of her love both before marriage, in that state, and in her widowhood; that some discourse passing (during the time of her widowhood) betwixt y^e said widow Jones and y^e said James Parkinson, being desired by y^e said Parkinson, this examinant was present, when y^e said widow Jones denied y^t ever she reported of y^e said James Parkinson evell behind his back; that y^e said Parkinson desired he might have her good report and she should have his.

The defence being now brought to a close, the question was put upon the proof of such part of the several charges against James Parkinson as is made already, whether the said James Parkinson is to be judged fit in point of qualification, according to the ordi-

nance, to be a ruling member at Chorlton. Resolved in the negative.

On the 8th of March 1647-8, Samuel Taylor brought an appeal from the eldership of Chollerton to the classis in a difference between him and his brother Nathaniel Taylor, accusing the said Nathaniel of having wrongfully slandered him. It was ordered that the said Nathaniel be summoned to appear at the next meeting of the classis, and that the said Samuel have warrant for witnesses.

On the 5th of April 1648, the business of Samuel Taylor was investigated, who being plaintiff against his brother Nathaniel Taylor, brought witness as follows:—

James Chorlton, elder at Chollerton, aged about 50 years, deposed saith:—That Nathaniel Taylor said before y^e jury at Chollerton that Samuel Taylor his brother was a foresworn man; and y^t at another time as hee was coming to Manchester hee y^e said Nathaniel sayd in p^sence of James Hopwood and a shoemaker y^t his brother Samuel was foresworn in three particulars; and this deponent does not remember y^t hee made any explication or distinction of his charge of perjury when he first charged him before y^e jury; and y^e jury suied him y^e said Nathaniel in a *Nolle* for rayling at y^e jury; and y^e s^d Nathaniel further said before y^e court that y^e Devill was as good a professor as his brother Samuel; and y^t he also said y^t y^e meeting of Samuel Taylor and his friends was for bad and base ends, and to conspire against his brother, or words to y^t effect.

Josuah Taylor, of Marsledge, aged about 26 yeares, deposed saith:—That Nathaniel his uncle hearing some enquiry after Samuel Taylor this deponents father, y^e s^d Nathaniel answered here hee is like a foresworn man as hee is.

Zachary Taylor, of Rusholme, aged 42 yeares, deposed saith:—That hee y^e s^d deponent being sent by Samuel his brother to y^e said Nathaniel his brother, y^e said Nathaniel, after some other discourses, payled his hands and s^d that he had called his brother Samuel a p^jured man, and y^t he would make it out, and y^t he

instanced in this particular, that Samuel being a juror was bound to present himself and his sonne about y^e brawle as well as Nathaniel and he did it not.

During this day's proceedings there appeared an unwillingness on the part of James Chorlton, elder of Chorlton, to execute his office; whereupon he was called to shew cause why he thus refused. He alleged "Y^t they have never sitten as an elds^{pp}; y^t he is unfit and desires to bee freed from his office." The business deferred till the next classis that Mr. Benson may be acquainted therewith.

On the 3rd of May 1848, the case of Nathaniel Taylor was resumed :—

John Shelmerdine of Rusholme, yeoman, aged 18 yeares, de-
poseth saith, That Nathaniel Taylor sayed that his brother went
about to defraid his bro^r Isaac, and made a long discourse in y^e
presence of manie men, amongst whom one man which this dep^t
knowes not said to Nathaniel, If Samuel Taylor bee such a man I
wonder you suffer him to live amongst you: And Nathaniel
answered y^t he thought hee was as courste a man as lives, if hee
bee not a theefe or a murderer; and y^t hee caused his brother
Isaac to spend some parte of his portion 10^l or 11^l to get y^e rest.
Y^e occasion of this discourse was y^t this deponent asked y^e s^d
Nathaniel whether Samuel and hee were agreed about the [a word
undecipherable], and thereupon hee entered into this discourse.

June 14th 1648, the further consideration of Taylor's case en-
tered on:— "Nathaniel Taylor having divers times abused y^e
classis, this day in y^e face of y^e courte did charge y^e courte to
deale, and hath given out very scandalous and false reports ag^{tt}
Mr. Hollinworth, preacher of God's Word at Manchester, scandal-
izing y^e said Mr. Hollinworth before y^e classis, and of such things
as are knowne to most of y^e members thereof to bee false and
untrue, whereof y^e saide classis cleared him, — the classis hath
admonished him and should be glad to see his reformation, w^{ch} if
admonition doe not work him unto y^t they conceive it fitt further
to proceede against him."

John Barlow, elder at Chorlton, did witness y^t y^e said Nathaniel

Taylor desired him to goe and tell Mr. Hollinworth y^t he was a dishonest man ; secondly an [word illegible] man ; thirdly hee supposed hee was drunk or mad, or els y^t what hee did in y^e classis was of ppose to doe him wronge in his business.

Instead of attempting to rebut the allegations, Nathaniel retorted by making a counter-charge against his brother, but this was found to consist of matter not proper for the classis to deal with ; and on the 13th of February 1648-9, having reviewed the whole case, they announced their decision :—Forasmuch as Nathaniel Taylor hath brought in some exceptions against his brother Samuel Taylor, and upon his appearance refused to make proof of any exception against him whereof we have cognisance, therefore this classe doth clear the said Samuel Taylor from y^e aforesaid exceptions, and do order y^e said Nathaniel Taylor to give satisfaction to the said Samuel Taylor for the wrong he hath done him, viz. acknowledging his fault before this class.

Whether Nathaniel Taylor complied with the decision of the Court does not appear ; he is not heard of again.

Chorlton has but one Charity exclusively its own —

USHERWOOD'S CHARITY.

Margaret Usherwood, by will, bearing date August 23, 1742, and proved at Chester April 2, 1773, gave to Richard Broome, Nathaniel Gee, Jonathan Lowe and Samuel Bradshaw, all the residue of her estate after the payment of several legacies, her debts and funeral expenses, upon trust that they should put the same out at interest upon such securities as they should think meet ; and that they should nominate six poor children whose parents should, or did when living, frequent Chorlton Chapel, and more particularly such as should bear the surnames of Warburton or Williamson ; and should, after such choice, provide for each of such poor children a blue gown and a blue cap, a blue pair of stockings, a shirt and a pair of shoes, and should at the end of two years next after such nomination provide for each of such children such apparel as was thereafter mentioned ; and that they should,

for the term of four years next after such nomination, pay the schoolwages for the instructing such poor children in reading, and should at the end of such fourth year, elect such six other poor children from time to time, to be clothed and instructed as aforesaid, and so from four years to four years: And she directed that if any such poor children as should be chosen should not frequent the said Chapel on every Lord's Day and there remain during Divine Service in such part of the said Chapel as her trustees should appoint, unless prevented by sickness or inevitable necessity, such child should be by the said trustees deprived of any benefit by her intended, both with respect to apparel and learning: And she directed that if the residue of her estate should prove insufficient to provide for six poor children as aforesaid, the trustees should only nominate so many poor children as might by the yearly interest be clothed and instructed: And she further directed, that upon the death of any two trustees, the survivors should take to them two such other persons inhabiting within Chorlton as they should think fit, to join with them in the execution of the trusts, and so from time to time;—and she appointed the said trustees executors of her will.

It does not appear that any appointment of trustees has taken place by deed since the death of the testatrix, but whenever the trustees have been reduced by death to two, the survivors have elected two others inhabitants of Chorlton. The trustees, at the time of our inquiry, were Edward Mason, James Gresty, and Thomas Taylor; but it was proposed to make a new appointment, James Gresty being eighty-five years of age, and Thomas Taylor having never acted in the management of the trust, and being anxious to be discharged. The sum of £160, supposed to have been the produce of the above-mentioned bequest, is now in the hands of Robert Fielden, Esq., as the personal representative of Frances Bayley, widow, who died in 1818, and is secured by a bond dated July 13, 1809, given by the said Frances Bayley to Edward Mason, James Gresty and Thomas Taylor for £160 with lawful interest, payable to the above-named trustees or their successors

legally appointed to act as trustees. This interest of £8 has been paid to the trustees by Mr. Fielden since the death of Mrs. Bayley. Out of this income the trustees pay for the instruction of six poor children of the township of Chorlton, the boys being taught reading and writing, and the girls reading and sewing. Previously to the year 1817 two of these children were clothed, a preference being given to those who bore the name of Warburton or Williamson; but in consequence of an increase which took place in the charge for schooling and books, and one of the trustees who acted as treasurer having become in advance to the charity, it was thought advisable to discontinue the clothing. In 1824, the state of the funds being such as to admit of that expense, two children were clothed as formerly. No clothing was allowed in 1825; but in making up the accounts in September in that year there was a balance of £2 6s. 2d. in the hands of Mr. Edward Mason, who keeps the accounts.

The parents of the children are directed by the trustees to take care that they attend Divine Service on Sundays at Chorlton Chapel, and seats at the altar are provided for them.¹

For charities of Sir Edward Mosley, Knt., and Dame Ann Bland, in which Chorlton participates, see under Didsbury, pp. 100–104.

¹ Commissioners' Report, vol. xvi. pp. 190, 191.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 9, line 16. — The White Hall estate was held on lease by Sir Nicholas Mosley at the time of his death from the Trafford family, to whom it had anciently appertained. It had however passed intermediately by purchase, a few years before the death of Sir Nicholas, to Edward Mosley Esq. his younger son, and had been by him subsequently reconveyed to its earlier possessors. By indenture made 10th August 43 Elizabeth (1600), between Edward Mosley of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex Gent. on the one part, and Edmund Trafford of Trafford Esq. on the other part, — it is witnessed that whereas the said Edmund Trafford did heretofore, by his indenture of bargain and sale made betwixt the said parties, and dated 16th November 39 Elizabeth (1596), give, grant, bargain and sell to the said Edward Mosley and his heirs the reversion of all that capital messuage commonly called White Hall, lying in the Houghe in the parish of Wilmslow in the county of Chester, and all houses, rents, services, &c. to the said reversion pertaining, and all his right, title, claim, deeds, evidences, &c.; the said Edward Mosley does now by this present indenture, for valuable consideration to him paid by the said Edmund Trafford, grant, sell, &c. unto the said Edmund Trafford his heirs &c. for ever, all and every the said reversion of the said capital messuage &c., to have and to hold the same for ever to and for the only use and intent expressed in an indenture &c., namely to the use of the said Edmund and Dame Mildred his wife for the term of their lives; with remainder to Cecil Trafford their son and his heirs male; with remainder to the other sons of the said Edmund and Dame Mildred; with remainder to the right heirs of the said Edmund. (Signed) EDW. MOSLEY.

Endorsed: "Conveyance of y^e Whitehall from S^r Edw. Mosley to S^r Edmund Trafford, 43 Elizabeth."

Page 30, line 33. — For Rev. R. M. Mosley read Rev. R. M. Fielden.

Page 108, line 7. — Matthew de Hathersage grants certain lands, a part of his recently acquired manor of Withington, to Richard, son of H. de Hondforth, and his heirs. The deed, which is without date, is witnessed by W. Doyle, Rob. Dunes, Ri. de Croft, Rob. de Redish, Will. de Tuncleuez, W. le Noreys, and Matt. de Birchis. By a similar deed, undated, he grants other lands in Withington to Geoffrey de Rosden and his heirs, being the same lands which Hortredus de Brabery formerly held. This deed is witnessed by Hugh Fitton, H. de Chetam, Ri. de Biron, Ralph de Moston, Rob. de Redish, Roger son of Roger de Barlow. The date of it, like that of the previous deed, may probably be referred to the reign of Edward II. Attached, is a pendant seal bearing the arms of Hathersage.

Page 114, line 27. -- Kuerden's MS. (quoted in the *Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv. pp. 55, 56) gives abstracts of three deeds relating to the Withington family:

1. Noverint p'sentes &c. Odo fil' Ingrith de Withinton p' salut' animæ dedi in puram elemosinam quādam partem terræ meæ in Withinton, scilicet 8 acras terræ juxta magnum fossatum ex australi parte sicut Ormeus de Mershel &c.
2. Om' sanct' Od. fil' Ingerith dedisse quādam porcionem terræ meæ infra divisas de Withington, scil' in parte aquilone ejusdem villæ duas fossatas sicut Ormeus ten' siqua de m sc' in parte aquilone ejusdem villæ cum mess' et 4 acr' de magno fossato pro servicio ecclesiæ versus terram Walteri de Quttington in puram elemos' quiete ab omn' consuet' &c.
3. Noverint Walcot de Withington fil' Utredi pro salute anim' patris et matris ded. Deo et Beatæ Mariæ de Cokersand in puram elemosinam terram de Quiteroft infra has divisas viz. de Telebroc ex transverso p' assartum Rob'ti fil' Swain et per cartam Jordan fratris sui usque ad magnum fossatum ascend usque ad p'uam fossatam ex opposita parte . . . [torn] Andrea Baiard et de p'uv foss . . . trans' so usque ad sepem q . . . ext' usque ad Telebroc descend usque ad assartum Rob. fil' Suaini . . . [torn].

The date of these several deeds is, by conjecture, about 1080.

Page 264. — *Dele* last line of note.

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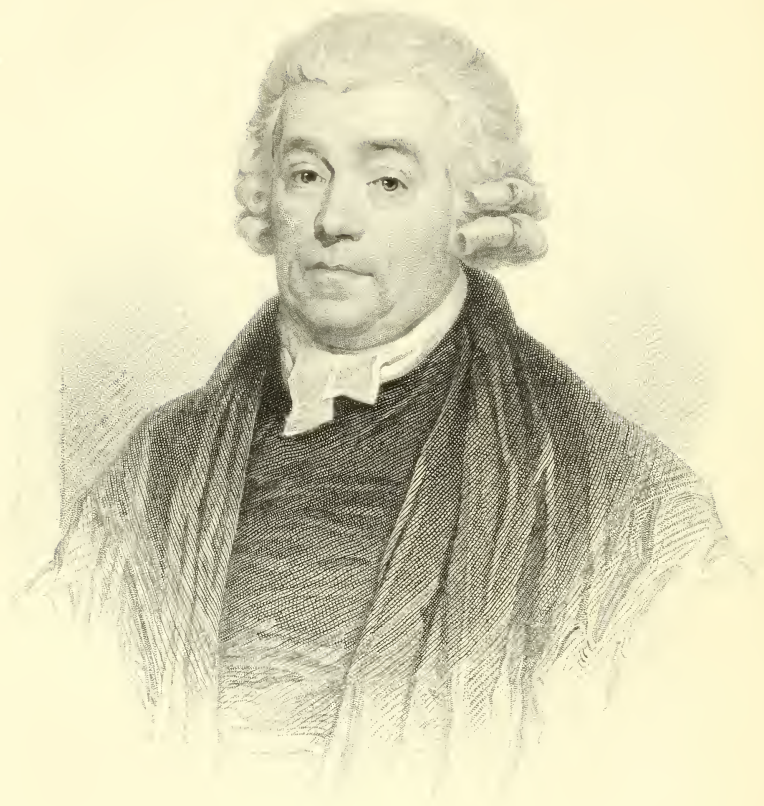
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Finis.



Thos. Wilson

2

MISCELLANIES:

BEING

A SELECTION FROM THE POEMS AND

CORRESPONDENCE

OF

THE REV. THOMAS WILSON, B.D.,

RECTOR OF CLAUGHTON, INCUMBENT OF CLITHEROE AND DOWNHAM,
AND MASTER OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF CLITHEROE.

WITH

MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE.

BY THE

REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,

HON. CANON OF MANCHESTER, AND
INCUMBENT OF MILNROW.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

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MEMOIRS OF REV. THOMAS WILSON.

MR. WILSON, the author of the following Miscellanies, and of whose life some account is about to be given, had not formed a favourable opinion of Biography, or, more probably, of Biographers. He has said that "Biography in general is either a detail of uninteresting events, or a journal of human weaknesses or human woes; therefore these must be, on one supposition, beneath the notice of a wise man, and, on the other, distasteful to a man of feeling. To desire to hear of what does not relate to us is impertinent; to long to know the failings of our fellow mortals implies failings in ourselves; and to wish to learn the miseries of others is a confession that we have miseries of our own. But this is moralizing," he added, "and consequently dull, paradoxical and consequently startling; but questionable as it may appear, I could make out every proposition to a demonstration."

These observations, on a subject which had at least two sides, but of which he only presented one, were probably nothing more than ingenious expedients against writing the Life of an old friend,¹ which undertaking, after repeated solicitations, he thus evasively declined.

¹ Mr William Cockin.

His "startling paradoxes," without qualification, have not been generally adopted by mankind, and therefore a brief notice of a few passages in his own life, toilsome and monotonous as it was, may not be deemed uninteresting.

THOMAS, son of William and Isabella Wilson, was born at Priest Hutton, in the parish of Warton, a beautiful and picturesque village near Lancaster, on the 3rd December 1747, O.S., and was baptised at the Parish Church on the 30th of the same month.

His father was a respectable yeoman, living on his own estate at Hutton,¹ adjoining the premises belonging to the house in which the Rev. Dr. Tatham, late Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, was born. Of his family, however, no particulars have been related. He received the rudiments of his education in Archbishop Hutton's Grammar School in his native village, and possessing a good memory and close application to study, was afterwards placed at Sedbergh School with the Rev. Wynne Bateman D.D., at that time a celebrated teacher. At this school he laid the foundation of his accurate Classical knowledge, and it is recorded that from early boyhood Terence was his favourite author, and that he long continued to imitate the style of that lively writer.

Here he formed an acquaintance with several men of learning and piety, which ripening into esteem and friend-

¹ This property was sold by Mr. Wilson in 1794 to Dr. Tatham, who had the option of purchasing an adjacent farm of Mr. Wilson's, called Overdale, of which he does not seem to have availed himself.

ship, continued through life. Of these may be named Mr. John Dawson and Mr. William Hutton the Mathematicians, as well as Mr. William Cockin, an amiable Metaphysician, who in their earlier correspondence with him occasionally allude to his wit and humour whilst a youth at Sedbergh.¹

At that time the elements of science were excluded from the ordinary routine of education at Sedbergh; but, following a natural taste, Mr. Wilson acquired by private study with Mr. Dawson, an apothecary in the village, no inconsiderable knowledge of Arithmetic, Algebra, and Mechanical Mathematics. He was also indebted to Dawson for the correction of some of the crude and injurious metaphysical speculations, which in early life influenced his mind.

After his education was completed, he remained in the school as an assistant to Dr. Bateman from 1768 to 1771,² and intending to take Holy Orders, was allowed, with other candidates, to employ his talents in the humble but useful

¹ "Let me next commemorate," says the learned Dr. Whitaker, "either the living or the recently departed ornaments of this seminary" (Sedbergh): and amongst other distinguished names occurs — "the witty and elegant Thomas Wilson B.D." — *Hist. Richmonds.* vol. ii. p. 359.

² It is deserving of notice that after Mr. Wilson left the school its high reputation, for several years, was diminished. Mr. Dawson writes — "Dr. Bateman at present has the gout, which has kept him from the school for some time; but indeed he cannot be much wanted there, the whole of the school amounting now only to twenty-four or twenty-five scholars. Mr. Bateman sets off for Cambridge to-morrow. People here have made very free with him. He has been twice pulled by the nose, besides being very rudely treated in other respects; but this is all of his own acquiring." *Letter to Mr. Wilson, Oct. 21, 1772.*

office of a Reader, in the rustic neighbouring chapels of Howgill, Firbank and Middleton, which at that time, and even later, were supplied by the Ushers and Assistants of Sedbergh School. Of this probationary description were his first pulpit exercises, and in the tranquil seclusion of Sedbergh, and not "*inter sylvas academi*," he found leisure for the study of Divinity, having read and digested many of the best English writers on the Polity, Articles and Liturgy of the Church, and having also made copious and useful extracts from them, still remaining in his various Common Place Books.

On the 13th January 1771 he was ordained Deacon in Park Street Chapel, Grosvenor Square, Westminster, by Dr. Yonge, Bishop of Norwich, having obtained Letters Dimissory from Bishop Markham of Chester, and was licensed, apparently without stipend, to the Curacy of Cockerham, on the nomination of the Rev. John Winder the Vicar, an infirm man. He appears at this place to have cultivated letters with great assiduity,¹ and to have been inactive as a parish priest; but his residence was of short duration. On the 2nd August 1772 Bishop Markham ordained him Priest at Chester, and on the 19th June in the following year he was licensed by Archbishop Drummond as Head Master of the Grammar School of Slaidburn. Amongst the Governors of the School he found a friend in Mr. Lister of Gisburn Park, afterwards Lord Ribblesdale, and received £50 a year as his salary as Master, together

¹ See p. 105.

with £30 a year for an Usher, both of whom were required by the Founder to be in Holy Orders.

“I am glad,” said Mr. Dawson (August 27th 1773), “to hear that you have begun to read the works of the Fathers, and likewise that you find them on our side of the question (on the Trinity), as their opinions have always been allowed of the greatest weight by both parties. Let me know what you still think of them, as I must never have the pleasure of reading them in the originals myself.” Whilst at Slaidburn he entered into a long and not uninteresting correspondence with the same excellent individual on some doctrinal points of vital importance, and the opinions of the *Monthly Reviewers*, and other popular latitudinarian writers on these subjects, were combated with much ability by Mr. Wilson. His clear reasoning powers and close arguments were so well sustained that Dawson, whose mind had been unsettled, became “a humble convert” to his young friend’s views,¹ and admitted with the frankness of a great mind, that he “could see no medium betwixt Orthodoxy and Deism.” (*Letter to Mr. Wilson, November 27th 1773.*)

Mr. Wilson also corresponded with Mr. Dawson about this time on other abstruse metaphysical questions, which appear to have been favourite, but probably not very profitable, subjects of discussion.² He seems to have been well acquainted with the writings of Hartley, Tucker, Priestley, and the minor English philosophers of that period, and some of his letters —

¹ See p. 109.

² See p. 109.

“Of Providence, foreknowledge, will, and fate,
Fix’d fate, free will, foreknowledge absolute”—

are profound dissertations, which, if printed, would expand into pamphlets; but as the writer felt that his opinions were not exactly in accordance with Dawson’s,¹ some of these letters, after having been elaborately written, were apparently not submitted to the keen critical observation of his pious friend, and it may be sufficient to name that the writer produced nothing new or satisfactory, but left the various perplexed subjects just where he first discovered them,

“And found no end in wandering mazes lost.”

At Slaidburn he was an early riser, and still a hard student, reading much and retaining what he read. After having been there three years as Curate and Schoolmaster, he became a candidate for the Mastership of Clitheroe Grammar School, and notwithstanding his want of an University education, stated in his application to the Governors, that “to dwell upon his own qualifications would no less wound his own sensibility than that of others;” and yet, he ventured to add, that “in point of learning he declined no test, but referred himself without anxiety to the scrutiny of the examiners.”

Mr. Wilson had not arrogantly miscalculated his own attainments, nor were they unappreciated by others. He was elected after a stringent and protracted examination,

¹ Mr. Dawson published *The Doctrine of Philosophical Necessity briefly invalidated*. 8vo.

one of his sixteen competitors being the Rev. William Sheepshanks, Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College Cambridge, afterwards Prebendary of Carlisle, and memorable as having been the Tutor of the first Lord Ellenborough, of Bishop Tomline, and of Dr. Whitaker the Historian.¹

The election was decided by Mr. Charles Lawson of Manchester School, a man of exact and extensive scholarship, and the appointment being made by the Governors, was confirmed by the Bishop of Chester, the Visitor,² although his Lordship's own recommendation of a rival candidate, educated by himself at Westminster, had been, not unfairly, superseded. The Bishop afterwards wrote to one of the Governors (Mr. Assheton): "I am told that your new Schoolmaster is descended from the giant race of scholars, and that he is invulnerable in the *forehead*," an observation which could not fail to be regarded as a high attestation of his literary attainments. "Some praise," said Dr. Johnson,

¹ *Hist. Whalley*, p. 156.

² The following graceful letter expresses Bishop Markham's concurrence in the election :

Bloomsbury Square, May 8, 1775.

Sir: I have received the favour of your letter by which you inform me of your proceedings in the choice of a master for Clitheroe School. I am perfectly satisfied with the reasons which induced you to give the preference to Mr. Wilson. I know the Trustees and the rectitude of their intentions, and I might have safely rested on them, but the opinion which I have of Mr. Lawson would of itself have decided me. I beg the favour of you to make my respectful compliments to the gentlemen concerned, and to assure them that nothing on my part shall be wanting to effectuate their laudable endeavours. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. CHESTER.

“must be allowed to him who does *best* what such multitudes are contending to do well.”

On the 30th June 1775 he was licensed by the Bishop to the School, and at the same time to the Church of the Parochial Chapelry of Clitheroe, on the nomination of Assheton Curzon Esq. (afterwards Viscount Curzon) of Hagley in the county of Stafford.¹

Notwithstanding his severe studies he occasionally at this time “slides into verse and hitches in a rhyme,” and has in this way enabled us to catch a glimpse of his private habits :

“I live with the dead² and adhere to their rules,
And look on the world as a region of fools ;
Sage Plato instructs me to govern my mind,
To attend to myself and — a fig for mankind ;
Smart Horace and Virgil and Ovid’s soft strain
When stupid with thought can revive me again ;
I collect from the lines of antiquity’s page
That a hero’s a madman and courage is rage ;
From the horrors of wars most renown’d in old story
I learn the true value of fame and of glory ;
When history informs me what fools have been great,
I am pleas’d with my station and sick of all state.”

¹ In Whitaker’s *Hist. of Whalley*, p. 287, Mr. Wilson appears as the immediate successor of Dr. King, whose incumbency dates from 1743 ; but the Rev. Mr. Sedgwick held the church as well as the school, and was Wilson’s immediate predecessor.

² His friend Dawson, writing to him from Sedbergh April 5th 1771, observes : — “I was much pleased with the humourous account you give of yourself and situation, although I am half afraid you will keep those same “dead men” too much company, even until you be numbered amongst them.

He had, however, in view other objects and pursuits in wooing the Muse, and having discovered that "verse sweetens toil however rude the sound," candidly confesses in his poetical epistle —

"When tir'd of reflection and tir'd of the dead
I seek in my heart a relief for my head,
And chat with a fair one of sense so refin'd,
That she rivals our sex in the gifts of the mind;
To her I retire from the world's busy strife,
And find her the balm and the solace of life,
Convinc'd, like myself, that our carés are but vain,
And that sighing for trifles is purchasing pain."

Immediately upon obtaining his Clitheroe preferment he married Susannah, daughter of Mr. Tetlow of Skirden and relict of the Rev. Henry Nowell, Rector of Bolton by Bowland. This lady had been educated in her youth a Quaker,¹

I would have you frequently call to mind that you are a compound being, and that you ought to pay a proper respect to each part of the compound. Both parts require moderate exercise, but if it be carried to excess it occasions debility instead of strength, and if entirely neglected, both parts must necessarily languish." He approves of the young Curate's intention to study husbandry, as it would necessarily call him out into the fields, and suggests that the study of botany would accomplish this purpose more effectually. Dawson was one of those genial friends who always "mix'd reason with pleasure, and wisdom with mirth."

¹ I do not know his meaning when he says, that "on his troth he did not follow the *sage* and, doubtless, *practical* counsel of *Friend* Hilkiah Bedford;" but it is clear there was something facetious in the reference, and that his Lancaster friend Cockin understood it, who informs him that "had the Muses smiled he would have represented Hymen as producing a striking

but having overcome the scruples of her sect she married at Bolton Church on the 8th May 1755, the Rector of the parish, who left her at his death, on the 6th June 1773, with three children. It is not undeserving of notice that at the time of her second marriage (29th April 1775) she had not only arrived at what Sir Walter Scott calls "the reflecting age of eight and twenty," but had attained the mature age of forty-four years, whilst her husband was little more than twenty-seven, and her daughter in her eighteenth year.

In 1775 Mr. Wilson was engaged in a critical investigation of some of Dr. Priestley's metaphysical speculations, and especially those which more immediately affected Reid's system, and the result of his labours probably appeared in some of the serials of the day. At the same time he wrote some Hymns, which were printed, set to music, and sung with much approbation at the anniversary meeting of the Charity Schools in Lancaster, and in several subsequent years his Lancaster Hymns seem to have been a source of great attraction.

When Mr. Wilson first settled at Clitheroe, he found a population consisting of about eight hundred souls,¹ chiefly following agricultural pursuits, and little employed in commerce or manufactures. The town presented few remark-

example of connubial happiness in the individual who, with great poignancy of wit, *always used to inveigh against him* at Sedbergh."—*Letter May 16, 1775.*

¹ This did not include the outlying districts of Chatburn, Worstorn, and Mearley, which with Clitheroe had increased in 1807 to 2480 souls, and now may be estimated at little short of 10,000.

able features except the old Castle and the Moot Hall; the former a picturesque grim-looking fortress, built upon the summit of an almost perpendicular rock, and the latter a dusky prison-looking structure, standing in the principal street. The small Church of St. Mary Magdalene, and the quaint wood and plaster Grammar School adjoining, would hardly attract the notice of a stranger; but in the immediate neighbourhood towered the stupendous heights of Pendle, and nearer still the Salthill and Coplow,¹ Wilson's favourite walks, whilst within the compass of an easy stroll the broad Ribble wended its way through shady vallies, and amongst green hills and woody glens.

As the Grammar School had been founded by Queen Mary in 1554, the elective franchise to return members to Parliament was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1558; and although the election was vested in the free burgesses, the influence of the Curzons and Listers had become paramount and the elections nominal.² In 1775 an individual member of each family "well represented" the little borough.³ The municipal government was vested in the Corporation, and as an instance either of civic frugality or respectability, Mr. Wilson mentions, on one occasion, that the mayor lived with his son-in-law, who thankfully received Grammar School-boys, as boarders, in his *villula*, and attended to their morals as well as inspired them with due reverence for authority, corporate or sole.⁴ Mr. Wilson

¹ See p. 85.

² Baines, vol. iii. p. 213.

³ See p. 1.

⁴ Letter to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

has described the town, its governors and inhabitants, with a curt and lively, but, it is said, not with an imaginative pen.¹ "The modern vortex," so much the horror of the historian of Whalley, has, however, "swallowed up" nearly all these primitive features and distinguishing characteristics of this old Lancashire borough, and Mr. Wilson would now find himself a stranger in it. In his early days at Clitheroe he regretted to find that the credulity of his inferior parishioners had not receded before the advances of useful knowledge and the progress of civilization; and it is amusing, if not startling, to find a grave clergyman publishing special articles, and supplying approved antidotes, both in prose² and verse, against the popular traditions and delusions on Judicial Astrology, Witchcraft, and Natural Magic. The belief in these ancient myths and mysteries still prevailed amongst the people, whose "rude forefathers," no less than themselves, had failed to profit by the learned labours of Wilson's distinguished predecessor and Clitheroe's Doctor mirabilis, Mr. Webster, or, as he delighted to style himself, "Johannes Hyphantes."³ It must be admitted that both these Incumbents and Schoolmasters of Clitheroe were well skilled in the Diabolical nomenclature, and that both

¹ See pp. 1, 45.

² *Arch. Dict.* voce Witchcraft, where fifteen arguments are adduced against the existence of witches and witchcraft; and several Poems exist in MS. on the same subject.

³ See *Hist. of Whalley*, p. 284, and for some highly valuable notices of this accomplished scholar, Mr. Crossley's excellent Introduction to *Potts's Discoverie of Witches*, p. xxviii. et seq.

of them, with mathematical precision, described and denounced talismanic figures and nativities, and reasoned with incredulous discourtesy, like the brasen man of Albertus Magnus, against the magical evocations of old Mrs. Demdike, the Pendle Witches and their black cat.¹

In disposing of the Incumbency of Clitheroe, provision was secured for the spiritual wants of the flock, but the temporal necessities of the pastor had been almost forgotten; and had it not been for the moderate endowment of the school, and the abilities of its master, an income, from the Living, of £60 a year, would have afforded little for the poor of the parish, less for hospitality, and still less for the general promotion of the cause of Christ.

Shortly after Mr. Wilson's settlement at Clitheroe, an incident occurred which the restless zeal of party did not fail to notice, and afterwards to pervert to the temporary injury of his character. On the 3rd of April, 1778, three of his parishioners were indicted and tried at Lancaster before Sir Henry Gould, Knt., Justice of the Common Pleas, for the wilful murder of George Battersby at Clitheroe, on the night of the 25th of March 1773, five years before the trial took place. Mr. Wilson was examined, as a witness, by Mr. Lee of counsel for the prosecution, on behalf of Wilkinson, one of the accused persons. This man was an innkeeper of questionable character, but a strong political partizan of Mr. Curzon, Wilson's patron

¹ See *Potts's Discoverie of Witches in the County of Lancaster*, Chetham Society, vol. vi.

and friend. Wilson stated that he had known the man about three years, that he bore a good character, had the reputation of being a humane man and a good neighbour, and that the whole tenor of his life was totally inconsistent with the charge of murder. Mr. Wallace, the Attorney-General for the County Palatine of Lancaster, also for the prosecution, in his cross-examination, exclaimed, with great harshness of manner, "Mr. Wilson, you astonish me! to hear you say that the whole tenor of his life is totally inconsistent with the charge, when you say you have only known him for three years!" Mr. Wilson qualified his somewhat too broad statement, by adding that he had lived at the neighbouring village of Slaidburn before he went to Clitheroe, that he had enquired into the prisoner's general character, and that he had formed his opinion as well from personal knowledge as from credible evidence. This did not quite satisfy the learned and capacious counsel, who, clearly agreeing with the Mrs. Quickleys of Clitheroe, that the Bardolph of the Swan was an "arrant Mahnsey-nose knave," and forgetting the sacred calling of the young and inexperienced witness, and wishing to overthrow his credibility on the principle of *noscitur à sociis*, insinuated a doubt as to the respectability of his associates. "I should think," said he, "a man who keeps a public house is not a fit companion for a clergyman;" and doubtless Mr. Wilson thought so too. It was observed in Clitheroe by respectable persons many years after this trial, that Mr. Wallace and other lawyers did not soon forget

the energetic and dignified reply of Mr. Wilson, which ended his cross-examination; and he had the satisfaction, if such it was, to find that after a trial which lasted from eight in the morning until past midnight, the prisoners were acquitted of the heinous charge of murder, apparently on the ground that owing to the lapse of time the body of the murdered man could not be identified, and therefore there was a want of legal evidence that he was really dead.¹

Mr. Wilson's principal object in settling at Clitheroe appears to have been to elevate the character and extend the usefulness of the Grammar School, which had declined under the presidency of the Rev. Mr. Sedgwick, an accurate scholar but not devoted to school work. The number of pupils at the commencement of his labours is not recorded, but about ten years afterwards he had the charge of one hundred boys, many of them the sons of gentlemen in various parts of the county, who had been induced to send them to Clitheroe owing to the ripe experience, untiring zeal, and high ability of the master. All his energies were employed in promoting the credit of the school. His large and liberal mind was engrossed by that one object, and

¹ Mr. Justice Gould laid it down as an axiom that the law could not be relaxed upon probabilities however strong, nor upon circumstantial evidence, even although it amounted, as in this case, *almost* to positive proof. The men had the benefit of the doubt. One at least of them long survived the trial, and lived at Clitheroe in great seclusion; but such was the feeling with which he was popularly regarded, that he could hardly say with Lord Coke: "The law doth delight in certainty, because it is the mother of *quiet and repose*." — 1 *Inst.* 34 b.

neither personal comfort nor recreation were suffered to come in competition with it. Even exercise and the most moderate relaxation were sparingly allowed, lest they should interfere with the advancement of his pupils. On the annual day, the 24th of June, he supplied from his own versatile resources all sorts of compositions in Latin, Greek, and English, verse and prose, for the recitation of his scholars. Being a singularly humane man, he immediately suppressed the ancient diversion of cockfighting, which he deemed barbarous and demoralising. He wrote an excellent essay on the subject for recitation on the anniversary day, which sets forth the hard fact that none but unmitigated blockheads, or those who are training themselves for penal settlements, ever wantonly inflict pain, or show their bravery by injuring the weak and defenceless. Instead of the old Shrovetide recreation he introduced theatrical representations,¹ recitations, and athletic exercises, and endeavoured in various ways to promote literary tastes, refined

¹ One of the printed play bills and a ticket of admission (No. 90) to witness the tragedy of "Cato," have been preserved; the former may be assigned to about 1789 or 1790, but the year is omitted:—

"CLITHEROE.

On Saturday the 17th of April will be presented

A Tragedy [by Dr. Young] called the

BROTHERS,

By the Gentlemen of the Academy.

PHILIP King of MACEDON	Mr. Shuttleworth.
PERSEUS his elder son	Mr. Clarke.
DEMETRIUS his younger son	Mr. Hardy.
PERICLES a friend of PERSEUS	Mr. Peters.
ANTIGONUS a minister of state ..	Mr. Watson.

habits, and intellectual pursuits amongst his pupils. He had a keen dislike of what was considered to be the fashionable education of his day, and has lashed the prevailing and pernicious folly with an unsparing but not with an unjust hand. "The Fine Gentleman,"¹ without intelligence and

DYMAS the King's favourite	Mr. Callender.	
POSTHUMIUS	} Roman ambassadors. {	{ Mr. Carr. Mr. Haldren.
and		
CURTIUS		
ERIXINE the Thracian Princess	Miss Weekes.*	
DELIA her attendant.	By a young Lady.	

INTERLUDE BY MR. SHUTTLEWORTH AND MR. HARDY.

To which will be added a FARCE [by Mr. Foote] called the

APPRENTICE.

Dick	Mr. Callender.
Wingate	Mr. Clarke.
Gargle	Mr. Peters.
Simon.....	Mr. Hardy.
Charlotte	Miss Weekes.

The Doors to be opened at Six o'Clock and the Performance
to begin at Seven."

¹ See p. 2. It is evident that Wilson had read Lord Chesterfield's paper in *The World*, No. 29, "On the little Benefit accruing to Englishmen from their Travels;" as well as the "Letters to his Son," published in 1774, after his Lordship's death. He had probably not seen Scott's Prize Essay (1771), "On the Advantages and Disadvantages of Foreign Travel," which was better known after the distinguished author became Lord Chancellor Eldon.

* Of Miss Weekes I know nothing. In 1788 Mr. Staniforth placed with Mr. Wilson Mr. Weekes, a young West Indian, who had been sent to England to be educated; and seven years afterwards, in sketching his qualifications, apparently for the study of physic, his old tutor said: "The conduct of Mr. Weekes is irreproachable—his manner is that of a gentleman, his spirit manly, his person graceful and handsome, his external accomplishments such as will qualify him for elegant society, and hitherto he has happily escaped those vices which are prompted by the impetuous passions of youth while reason is too weak to have full control."

without principle, was not really admired even by the "graceless old Lord," whose advocacy of dissimulation Wilson seconded Johnson in roundly denouncing, and the hybrid would certainly meet with a mortifying but merited reception if he ever appeared at Clitheroe School.

In teaching the Classics Mr. Wilson endeavoured to make them *interesting* to his pupils, whom he wished to acquire erudition and a habit of study, and nothing merely superficial. After the lesson had been gone through by the boys he invariably recapitulated it himself, and connected it with the context, translating it into beautiful English, and interspersing his translation with such apposite remarks as enabled them to enter very much into the real spirit of the author. If the lesson contained any thing humorous, as was often the case in Terence, Horace, and Juvenal, he seldom failed to give the passage an additional zest. In Terence, especially, with his senior boys, he was brilliant, and rendered with singular felicity many a knavish passage, perhaps with rather less regard to purity of diction and refinement of expression than was quite necessary to arrive at the exact meaning, but with an accuracy and nicety which he probably thought requisite to give his pupils an idea of the vigorous forms of thinking, and of the gross as well as of the graceful colloquial idiom, of the Romans. His habit of punning, and dwelling on sounds and syllables, and thus

"Torturing one poor word a thousand ways,"

it can scarcely be doubted, sometimes led him to branch off

into puerilities which scarcely tended to edification ; but his foible was well known, and if few had the wish, and fewer the ability to follow his example, they were fewer still who felt disposed to censure him amidst the inexhaustible laughter which was sure to ensue.

In teaching the Classics also, it was remarked that he never forgot the wise observation of the solid Johnson, that “no boy can be taught faster than he can learn, and that the speed of the best horseman must be limited by the power of his horse.” He dwelt much, in his familiar conversations with his pupils, on the acquisition of sound and useful knowledge, but more on the formation of habits, so that it was not unfrequent to find a slow lad of regular habits and diligent application, a greater favourite with the master than another with fewer virtues and more shining talents. Notwithstanding his facetious manner he was a good disciplinarian, and nothing like insubordination was known in the school ; so general was the conviction of his strict impartiality and high sense of justice, which has been styled the moral peculiarity of the Saxon race, that his distribution of prizes, and other rewards of industry and merit, was seldom questioned.

His fixed salary from the Governors of the School was at first £80¹ per annum, afterwards increased to £150, and

¹ In a memorial addressed by himself and his usher to the Governors, dated June 24th 1789, for an increase of salary, he states that the revenues of the school amounted to £202 11s. 8d. per annum, and that the annual receipts of the master and usher did not exceed £140 ; and he urged a

finally to £200 per annum, being independent of the emolument arising from the instruction of boarders whom he received into his own house, and of the "cockpenny," an annual present from the scholars at Shrovetide. He also received 10s. for a commemoration sermon of the royal founder of the School,¹ which he preached himself every year until his death.

At the time of his appointment, the Governors were in the habit of giving exhibitions from the revenues placed at their disposal to poor scholars sent from Clitheroe to the Universities; but this discretionary power appears to have been abandoned or suspended.

In 1782 a new school-house was built² on the original site in the south-west part of the church-yard near the tower of the church, where it remained until 1828, when it was removed to a more eligible situation near Well Hall, a commodious house erected for the master's residence since Mr. Wilson's time.

diligent discharge of the duties of the office as a fair ground for expecting the full emoluments, adding that the "labourers were worthy of their hire," and that to increase the salaries of *future* masters out of the monies then accumulating would be to reward others at the expense of existing masters. The appeal was partly successful; and in the following year, Mr. Parker, Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Shuttleworth, the only governors present, voted to Mr. Wilson £21 and to Mr. Heaton £10 10s. *as gratuities*. In 1784 he received with his boarders £35 per annum, and £1 1s. as an entrance fee.

¹ The foundation of Clitheroe School was one of the bright acts in the dark reign of Queen Mary, which might be safely held forth for popular admiration, although it has escaped the notice of the eulogistic pens of Miss Strickland and Dr. Lingard.

² See pp. 22, 28, 29.

Fortunately for himself, the master of our school was not a keen politician, and yet he sympathised with the Americans in their Declaration of Independence,¹ and has left on record several proofs of his high opinion of Washington's honesty and his admiration of the consummate skill with which the General conducted the civil war. He condemned what he considered to be Lord North's injustice and short-sighted policy, and did not much regret the reverses which befel Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton; but it must be recorded in honour of his patriotism, that he did not justify France and Spain in their alliance against England.² As a matter of course he entered into Lord Shelburne's views and gladly recognized the independence of the colonies (1783).

In no borough in the kingdom, under the old system, did politics and patriotism run higher than in Clitheroe, between the partisans of Curzon and Lister, both families being for a series of years brave and resolute tories, and both inheriting the patrician blood and local influence of the old Asshetons. The corporation was certainly not exempt from the application of the keen sarcasm of Chancellor Thurlow, that corporations had neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be punished, and consequently practised

¹ See p. 8. This "Fragment" was printed from a copy before I discovered the original poem in Mr. Wilson's handwriting, in which the six verses on p. 9, beginning "Our conquests thus," &c., follow the last verse on p. 11, and conclude the poem, "With reason," which he has substituted for the words "To prison"!

² See p. 76, verse 5.

all sorts of iniquity. Mr. Wilson was a quiet and intelligent observer of passing events, and being indebted to the Curzons for his preferment and to the Listers for their friendship, wisely avoided the whirl and strife of party; yet now and then he was unwittingly caught in its meshes, and it must be confessed that his leanings were towards the Curzons.

Through the influence of the Lister family Mr. John Parker, of Browsholme, was returned along with his brother-in-law, Major Lister, as burgess for Clitheroe in 1780, after a struggle unprecedented in its fierceness and intolerance, which dislocated many old ties of friendship and good neighbourhood, and exhibited a hideous spectacle of political hostility. The return of Mr. Parker was the subject of parliamentary enquiry in the following year, on the ground that the borough of Clitheroe was not a borough by prescription, for it had its origin in the memory of man.¹ The chairman of this committee of the

¹ It appears from a printed broadside, purporting to be "A Short State of Circumstances relative to the contested Election at Clitheroe in Lancashire, on Wednesday and Thursday the 13th and 14th of September 1780," and which seems to have been Mr. Curzon's *Case* for the House of Commons' Committee, that the Listers and Curzons had united their parliamentary interests in 1722, and had continued conjointly from time to time to purchase burghage houses in the town until they had obtained command of the borough. Upon some misinformation, Mr. Lister imagined that, during his minority, his cousin Mr. Assheton Curzon, had endeavoured to undermine his interests in the borough, and with this impression he purchased several burghage houses without Mr. Curzon's knowledge and in violation of the family agreement, which had given him so great an advantage over Mr.

House of Commons was Elwes the miser, and Mr. John Scott was counsel for Mr. Curzon (afterwards Lord Curzon), the opponent of the Lister interest, whilst the Attorney-General Douglas, afterwards Lord Glenbervie, was retained by Mr. Parker. Mr. Curzon instructed Mr. Atherton of Lincoln's Inn, his law agent, to secure the services of the most able counsel; but at that time the lawyers of the highest reputation were employed on the various assize circuits, and could not attend to the case. At this juncture Mr. Atherton ventured to recommend a young man, little known, but of whose legal acumen he had formed a high opinion, and who, after having had the case in his hands thirty hours, appeared before the committee, encountered the Attorney-General's arguments in the most able manner, and after fifteen days was beaten in the committee by one

Curzon that he determined to oppose that gentleman, and for this purpose brought forward Mr. Parker. To insure his success, however, the usual and accustomed mode of election by the bailiffs, burgesses and freemen, which had prevailed for a century, was summarily ignored, and the *Journals of the House of Commons* in 1660 and 1661, confirmed by 2nd George II. cap. 24, were produced in justification, by which the right of voting was taken away from the freemen or tenants, and restricted to the freeholders. The bailiffs, being Lister's friends, admitted the argument, and all the freemen were disfranchised. Several legal technicalities were advanced and supported by counsel on both sides for some time, but as Mr. Curzon had a majority both of the freemen and freeholders of the borough, he at length preferred his petition to the House of Commons, when the statute above referred to was declared to be final and conclusive. Mr. Parker voluntarily resigned his seat before April 1782. John Lee Esq. was elected in his place, and the Curzons and Listers again became friends.

vote. This young lawyer was afterwards the virtuous and learned Lord Chancellor Eldon, and this was one of the first opportunities he had of laying the foundation of his imperishable fame. — (*Inf. of T. L. Parker Esq.*) Lord Campbell states that in his old age Lord Eldon would sometimes ascribe all his success to the accident of being employed as counsel before the Clitheroe election committee in 1781. — *Lives of the Chancellors*, vol. vii. p. 58, 1847.

At this time, amongst lesser *gravamina*, the authorship of a witty election ballad, aimed at the Lister party, was mistakenly attributed to Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Parker felt aggrieved that his clerical friend had not zealously supported the cause of his son, which led to “the bann of Browsholme” going forth against him, and, as he said, a sacrifice being necessary to grace young Mr. Parker’s triumph, he found himself to be the destined victim. In a letter addressed to Edward Parker Esq., April 21st, 1781, Mr. Wilson disposes of several of the distorted and untrue charges brought against him, and proceeds in a fine spirit of independence to state his political creed: —

“To speak in the terms of my profession, I always in party matters have thought the neuter to be the most worthy gender, and have endeavoured to make this the rule of my conduct. *Medio tutissimus ibis* has always been esteemed a prudent maxim, and I have adhered to it so closely that both sides have claimed me. Electioneering has always been my aversion, and I look upon two competitors for a seat in the senate to be worse than Samson’s foxes with fire-brands tied betwixt their tails, and they certainly

spread more destructive flames throughout a neighbourhood. The spirit of party is the most pernicious demon that can possess the human breast, and if I were skilful in exorcism it should be the first devil I would attempt to cast out. I have not so much tinder in my constitution as to catch fire from such silly collisions. Besides, my situation during the whole business, was more delicate and critical than that of any other man. I feel and acknowledge the ties of gratitude on every side. One of my votes, had I been called upon as a freeholder, was due to Mr. Curzon of course, — and you know the rest. Circumstanced, therefore, as I am, my conduct is entitled to every liberal indulgence, and to the most candid interpretation. But suppose I had really been *warmly* attached to the cause of Mr. Curzon, have I not a right of private judgment, and shall my real sentiments be sacrificed to the partiality of friendship, the feelings of gratitude, or the ties of obligation? Nothing ought to hinder a man from distinguishing right from wrong, or truth from falsehood. Friendship is sacred, and gratitude is laudable; but they never require the sacrifice of sincerity, or the concealment of our real sentiments. The mind should always be independent — *nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri*. To condemn all opinions but our own is assuming the infallibility of the Pope. To differ in sentiment cannot be a crime. And the man who can sacrifice his friendships to the sulky caprice of another, deserves not the name of friend, — he is only fit to be the slave of tyrants.”

The general strain of the letter is that of an aggrieved individual, who had, as the writer hoped, “spirit enough to defend himself, and charity enough to forgive his enemies.” The letter was delivered to the angry squire, and indignantly returned to the writer, with the observation, “Had you come to Browsholme I must have been under the

necessity of telling you I was engaged, owing to your behaviour to my son." After some time had elapsed, and Mr. Serjeant Aspinall, a mutual friend, had endeavoured to produce a reconciliation, which in a great measure proved abortive, as Mr. Parker's rankling wound, like the injury done to Cassius' reputation, was "past all surgery," Mr. Wilson ultimately authorized his friend to admit that "the letter which had given so much offence was written in an evil hour, and that its contents, so far as they were personal and offensive to Mr. Parker, were retracted;" but Mr. Wilson desired that his friend would not take a single step in the matter which could not be taken *salvâ amicitia*. If Mr. Wilson had really committed an error, which may admit of doubt, he had the honesty and courage to confess it, and afterwards the electioneering breach was closed.

After the election, he expressed himself in a letter to an unknown correspondent as follows:—

"The grand drama of the Clitheroe election being perfectly concluded, we had yesterday the farce. Mr. Lister and Mr. Parker, the patentees of our theatre, made their appearance in a very ludicrous manner, and performed their parts ridiculously enough. As it is Michaelmas, the freemen and burgesses assembled as usual, to choose each party a goose, one for the borough and another for the outskirts; but as the town is partly divided into factions in consequence of a game at cards lately played in it, where the dispute was whether a man could have the preference of the game by *honours* or *odd tricks*, some opposition was talked of in the choice of these geese, and as it could not be determined which was the fattest, two were pitched upon on one side and two

on the other, and Mr. Lister being a man of consequence upon the occasion pitched upon a great number of persons who farm some of his crofts, cottages, and backsides, but live at a distance, to weigh the geese in question. The 'honour' faction seeing they were overpowered by numbers gave it up to the party of 'odd tricks;' but we have no great reason to complain, for two thumping geese are singled out for the season. The person who used to score the game thought proper, in consequence of the late game already alluded to, immediately to resign his employment; one scene of the goose farce, therefore, was to elect a new one to record the score, and a fellow with a Scotch name was proposed by the 'odd trick' gentlemen and the point was carried without opposition: the Scotch are remarkably fond of 'odd tricks,' and seldom show great attachment to 'honours.' The geese, when regularly chosen according to form, were carried to *the swan*¹ to be roasted; they escaped this operation, however, though they were severely nicked in the head.

"All this allegory you will see has an allusion to the ceremony of choosing bailiffs, a ceremony which might in my opinion be much better conducted upon the principles of that of Hardenburg, or if that was not adopted, I think they could not object to a plan which may boast of some similarity to the election of Persian kings, which was determined by the neighing of a horse; I would, however, have it performed here by the braying of an ass. It is certainly a business that requires no great solemnity, since the chief of their business is to carry a silver-headed staff, to scour the mace, to mark cattle for the common, and to walk half a dozen miles on pancake Tuesday."

In his early days the municipal body, notwithstanding their intestine feuds and party triumphs and disappointments, often assembled in the Moot Hall thirsting for civic

¹ The principal inn.

and civil power, and not unfrequently afflicted with another thirst which occasionally resulted, according to the popular fashion, in something little better than Bacchanalian orgies. At these symposia Mr. Wilson was sometimes present, and it is still remembered that he regularly indulged in what Mr. Croker calls "the sober, sedentary pipe," nor was the well known snuff-box¹ ever absent. The social evils resulting from these meetings are strikingly de-

¹ A large oval silver snuff-box, now in the possession of Mrs. Carr of Whalley Abbey, bears the following inscription :

"The Gift of the Corporation of Clitheroe
to the Rev. Thomas Wilson,
Master of the Grammar School in that town,
as a mark of the esteem which they have
for his Literary Talents, his Social Virtues,
and his Worth as a Man.
Samuel Cable, }
Henry Hayhurst, } Bailiffs.
1791."

At the school gathering every year a pound of snuff was presented to the Master in great form as an offering from his friend Mrs. Staniforth of Liverpool, and the large box was immediately replenished in the midst of felicitous compliments to the ladies. More than one of his surviving pupils has selected as a characteristic remembrance of him his attitude with this identical snuff-box in his hand about to utter a *bon mot*. His puns were generally anticipated by his friends when, with an arch, twinkling expression of the eye and a remarkable play of features, he tapped the lid of his snuff-box to call public attention, as Major Clarke of Waddow said, to the gathering explosion—for the tapping implied that he was primed and loaded with explosive matter. The Major, like the President of the Chetham Society, abhorred puns, and seems to have thought with Dennis, that the man who made puns would not scruple to pick pockets, and with Steele, that punning "was an abuse of human society."—*Tatler*, No. 32.

pictured in his skilfully penned lines, "The Clitheroe Burgesses,"¹ which would doubtless be read in the flowing music of verse by some of the individuals concerned, and impart a suggestive lesson on sobriety and discord, which might have been listened to with chafing impatience from the pulpit of St. Mary's. He did not hesitate, however, publicly to express his views on these evils, in racy prose, as appears by the following address or speech to the Burgesses:—

"I am authorized to inform you that Mr. Curzon recommends to your choice Mr. Addison of Preston as 'out-bailiff.' He is so well known to you all that it is needless to take up your time in saying any thing on his behalf. He will, I doubt not, if elected, discharge the office with integrity and honour. After having experienced so long the discord of faction and many of the evils which attend it, I hope we are none of us averse to the return of peace and unanimity. The frequent squabbles of this insignificant borough, in fact, make the worshipful magistrates of the place a by-word, and their very name is enough to excite the sneer of derision. Of so little consequence are we, that our intestine struggles are regarded by the public as the battles of the cranes and pygmies, or the wars of the frogs and mice. To be more respectable, then, let us be more amicable. Let us from this moment bury our animosities, and let us pursue the line chalked out to us for peaceable elections. It is well known to us all that Mr. Lister and Mr. Curzon agreed, a few years ago, to nominate the bailiffs in turns. They are both honourable men, and as such cannot but wish to see harmony restored. I hope, for the sake of promoting and preserving the peace of the town, a due deference will be paid

¹ Page 21.

to the nomination of both the gentlemen. The reason alleged last year for departing from the usual mode of election, I presume, is done away by the termination of the suit which was then in contemplation. I should hope, therefore, that as the cause has ceased the effect will cease also. An objection, I know, was some time since made against choosing the agents of either of the gentlemen; but this objection does not lie against Mr. Addison. He no longer stands in that situation. Let me therefore, on his behalf, request the favour of your support, and your concurrence with the nomination of the day. And be assured that to conquer the vindictive spirit of party, will be more honourable than the fullest success in your paltry competitions, and a more noble triumph than to be invested with the worm eaten fur which adorns the faded gowns of the Clitheroe bailiffs."

In 1783 he published his "Archæological Dictionary, or, Classical Antiquities of the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, alphabetically arranged, containing an account of their Manners, Customs, Diversions, Religious Rites, Festivals, Oracles, Laws, Arts, Engines of War, Weights, Measures, Money, Medals, Computation and Division of Time," &c. 8vo.

This learned work was dedicated to SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D., and the individual through whose agency the Doctor's patronage was obtained was the Rev. Dr. Thomas Patten, formerly Fellow and Tutor of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and for many years the Rector of Childrey, near Wantage. Dr. Patten's nephew, who afterwards ably represented his native county in parliament, was at that time Mr. Wilson's pupil, although Lawson of Manchester School

had himself been one of the Doctor's pupils at Oxford. Writing to Dr. Patten, Mr. Wilson observed that he earnestly wished the MS. to be submitted to Dr. Johnson and his opinion of its merits elicited, as his approbation would have great influence with the booksellers, and further the sale, and he concluded that "a few hours" only would enable the Dr. to form an opinion of the plan, and also of its execution.

Dr. Patten's application to Johnson was not unsuccessful, although Wilson had been far from sanguine on the subject. In 1781 the MS. was sent to Dodsley, but his verdict was probably unfavourable, as no terms were made, and in the following year the copyright was sold to the Binns' of Leeds and Preston for £70;¹ so that the work brought honour rather than emolument to the author. Had he expected no better reward, he would never have undertaken such severe labour.

There seems to have been extraordinary care and deliberation exercised in sketching the Dedication, and the genius of Dr. Patten as well as the skill of Wilson was called into

¹ Writing to Mr. Wilson from Leeds on the 9th July 1783, Mr. John Binns enclosed "four bills value £70 13s. 6d., being 13s. 6d. overplus," which the disciple of Caxton requested might be sent the first convenient opportunity. He observed, "The book keeps selling, but not so rapidly as at first; but I hope it will do better when the *Monthly Reviewers* have noticed it, which I wonder they have not done ere now. I trust they will give a good account of it." He added a *postscript*, intimating that he had just received the *Monthly Review*, "which in a short manner speaks favourably."

requisition to propitiate the favour of the great philosopher, who had the ear of the nation more than the whole bench of Bishops, more than Pitt, North, or Fox himself;¹ nor is it by any means clear that of the several attempts of these divines in this delicate species of composition the following was the best : —

“ Sir,

Though flattery is the common language of dedication, it is a kind of incense which you are by no means disposed to receive, nor I to offer. My intention is to inscribe to you the following work, which has engaged such portions of my time as could be spared from a laborious employment. I could think of no name so proper to be prefixed to it as that of DR. JOHNSON, to whom the world is so much indebted for a variety of instruction. Indeed the success of your philological labours gives you a right of patronage to whatever has a tendency to smooth the paths of science or remove the impediments which obstruct the road to classical erudition. My utmost ambition is to be considered as an useful pioneer in that service wherein you have deservedly risen to the highest rank. These sheets, I flatter myself, will meet with a more favourable reception under the sanction of a name which is passing to posterity with the merited approbation of the present age.

“ I cannot conclude without expressing my acknowledgments for the many hours of elegant entertainment and useful instruction which I have enjoyed from your works; in which we have a striking example of the great effects of refinement of taste, solidity of judgment, purity of precept, and energy of diction, when happily united.

“ That the eve of your life may be attended with comforts equal

¹ Thackeray's *Lect. on George III.*

to your moral worth and productive of new honours to the literature of these kingdoms is the warm prayer of

Sir,

Your most obedient

and very humble servant,

Clitheroe,

THOS. WILSON."

Sept. 30th, 1782.

Dr. Johnson thus acknowledged the compliment : —

" Bolt Court, Fleet Street, London,

Dec. 31, 1782.

" Rev. Sir,

That I have so long omitted to return you thanks for the honour conferred upon me by your dedication, I entreat you, with great earnestness, not to consider as more faulty than it is. A very importunate and oppressive disorder has for some time debarred me from the pleasures, and obstructed me in the duties of life. The esteem and kindness of wise and good men is one of the last pleasures which I can be content to lose; and gratitude to those from whom this pleasure is received, is a duty of which I hope never to be reproached with the final neglect.

"I therefore now return you thanks for the notice which I have received from you, and which I consider as giving to my name not only more bulk but more weight; not only as extending its superficialities but as encreasing its value.

"Your book was evidently wanted, and will, I hope, find its way into the schools; to which, however, I do not mean to confine it; for no man has so much skill in antient rites and practices as not to want it.

"As I suppose myself to owe part of your kindness to my excellent friend Dr. Patten, he has likewise a just claim to my acknowledgments, which I hope, sir, you will transmit.

"There will soon appear a new edition of my Poetical Biogra-

phy. If you will accept of a copy to keep me in your mind,¹ be pleased to let me know how it may be conveniently conveyed to you. The present is small, but it is given with good will by,

Reverend Sir,

Your most obliged and most humble servant,

SAM. JOHNSON."

"To the Reverend Mr. Wilson,
Clitheroe, Lancashire."

Wilson's account of that "purgatory" in which Pope and Southey so much delighted, but which Churchill said was "like cutting away one's own flesh," is highly characteristic, and his grateful acknowledgment of Dr. Patten's kind suggestions, which, without any injury to his literary reputation, were not, in any respect, adopted, is somewhat amusing :

"Dear Sir,

Your last favour deserved the earliest acknowledgment; but my answer was delayed from the vain hope that I should be enabled to give you an almost immediate account of a final agreement for my MS., but booksellers I find are very cautious negotiators. I had no satisfactory proposals from Lon-

¹ It seems doubtful whether Dr. Johnson's liberal intention was ever fulfilled. Mr. N. Binns, addressing Mr. Wilson, says: — "I made the enquiry respecting Johnson's Biography. This morning I received a letter from my correspondent, in which I find Dr. Johnson has not given the publisher orders to deliver a copy of that work for you. This cannot be attributed to anything but forgetfulness in the Doctor. I will therefore (with your permission) desire my correspondent to remind the Dr. of it, who will doubtless be much better pleased than that his promise should be forfeited through a want of memory which in all probability is the consequence of his long illness."

don. I therefore tried my fortune in the country, and at last have entered into an agreement with Mr. Binns of Leeds for £70, with a reserve of twenty copies for my friends, half a dozen of which are to be upon royal paper, and one of these will endeavour to find its way to Childrey. Cadell of London, with some other booksellers of reputation, have a share in the purchase, whose names will give a sanction on the foot of the titlepage. I have corrected about half a dozen sheets, and am heartily tired of the drudgery already. The inaccuracy of printers is provoking to a degree, and the torment they create to poor authors I fancy has given rise to the cant expression of their employing devils in their service. Correction is a kind of purgatory, not only of books but their makers also; and my own house is *literally* at present a *house of correction*. I am in a worse predicament than those weak brothers and sisters who fall into the hands of the ecclesiastical court; for I am obliged to do penance weekly in a *sheet*, not for my own but for the errors of other people, and I verily believe if all sheets were equally disagreeable with those, I should either bid adieu to Somnus altogether or take a nap in my chair. But I am afraid you will catch me punning: I will therefore quit the sheets, rub my eyes, and return to the book. It will make a pretty large octavo, close printed, and I hope at last accurately executed, with two columns on each page, and worked upon good paper. The price will be moderate in proportion to the quantity, and I can safely promise it will be a very honest book.

“I am much obliged by your sketch of a dedication. I have made a little alteration in the form I sent you, from your suggestions. It gives me much pleasure to hear that Dr. Johnson is well and intends to make many additions to his *Lives of the Poets* and to finish his *Rasselas*.

“To the Rev. Dr. Patten,
Childrey.”

The Rev. Dr. Vicesimus Knox of Tunbridge examined the manuscript and expressed his favourable opinion of the design and approved of the execution of the work. Mr. Wilson rightly considered that the approbation of so distinguished a scholar might give the author very flattering hopes that his time had not been uselessly employed. This statement, made in the preface, led Dr. Knox to address the following not very courteous letter to Mr. Wilson :

“ Sir,

I received your Dictionary yesterday, and beg leave to return you my best acknowledgments for it.

“ You have paid me a compliment in your preface which is quite unexpected. Some persons would have been a little offended at their names being publicly used, WITHOUT THEIR LEAVE, as a *recommendation*. For my part I am not captious, and if I were I hope I should consider that the compliment ought to excuse the liberty.

“ I think you have printed it in the right form and size for circulation. I am sure it is a very useful book. I shall order several for my school, and I hope it will meet with such a reception from the public as it deserves.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

“ Tunbridge School,
Dec. 10, 1782.”

V. KNOX.”

Mr. Wilson’s “soft answer” was creditable to him, and the Tunbridge schoolmaster must have felt that his brother of Clitheroe was somewhat more imbued with the spirit of their common Master than himself. It may be remem-

bered that Mr. Wilson had sold the copyright, and had no beneficial interest in the sale of the work :

“ Rev. Sir,

I this day received your obliging letter mentioning the receipt of the Dictionary. I was not aware at the time I drew up the preface that any construction of impropriety could be put upon the mention of your name. From our correspondence on the subject I thought myself authorised to express myself as I have done, and my meaning was honestly to obtain some credit with the public. But I was immediately struck with a sense of my own imprudence on seeing the advertisements, in which the bookseller had availed himself of the paragraph and made use of your name as a puff. It was far from my intention to have dragged you forth unwillingly, or to serve a mercenary purpose ; but I see my error, stand corrected, and ask your pardon. No compliment which I have paid can excuse the liberty, because the liberty was taken as a compliment to myself ; for the esteem I have for your character as a man and your merit as a writer was very feebly expressed, and did not do justice either to myself or to you.”

This Dictionary has been pronounced “ a very useful performance, notwithstanding some slight defects,”¹ and displays both research and study. It was a well-timed and able contribution to the classical student, and has only been superseded by more elaborate works of the same class.

¹ Nichols's *Lit. Hist.* vol. i. p. 788. The principal defect was in the article referred to in Dr. Patten's letter (p. 127). Coleridge in his notes on Luther's “ Table Talk,” proposes three questions on this awfully mysterious subject, and exclaims — “ Oh ! to have had these three questions put by Melancthon to Luther, and to have heard his reply ! ” — *Remains*, vol. iv. p. 26.

Mr. Wilson, addressing his friend Mr. Cranke,¹ observed :

“At Cambridge you cannot but be very competent judges of literary offspring, as you are in no other way allowed to labour for posterity. I therefore received with double pleasure your congratulation on the birth of my son *Dic*. Since he has been put out to nurse, every person peeps at him, turns him up, and gives his opinion, and I scarcely find two opinions alike. One quarrels with the name as being too long and partly outlandish, none of the Dictionary family, they say, was called Archæological. Another says he has a Roman nose, another that he is too much of a Grecian, and a third enquires if he is not circumcised, because he has a strong look of the Jew. Some say he is too tall, others that he is too short, and others that he is big enough, but badly put together. One says he is like nobody, another that he is like everybody, and a third that he is like the Author. Some predict long life, and others sudden death, but still he grows apace. Thus it was with the old man and his ass; and with the old man's ass I shall leave them.”

In the year following the impression was exhausted, and yet nothing was done towards a new and recensed edition until 1794. Mr. Wilson liberally presented a “royal paper copy” to N. Binns his honest publisher, whose estimate of the binding of books, as might have been expected, was quite as low as the value which he placed on a royal paper copy.²

¹ See p. 125.

² “I am and ever was an avowed enemy to large margins, as I think nothing disfigures a volume so much as a multiplicity of blank space. Indeed I look upon it as a reflection upon the understanding of the author as well as upon the conduct of the publisher—the former because he appears

Although he had a certain local celebrity as a poet, he published nothing himself, and few of his poems ever found their way to the press.¹ They are met with in manuscript in all parts of the county; and although many of them are what Mr. Gifford styles "tuneful trifles" and display no high imaginative genius or enthusiasm, they possess merit, and deserve a place amongst the productions of the Palatine muse. They will neither be found uninteresting nor prolix, nor do they ever evince poverty of thought, although it may be mentioned that "a grave, sweet melody"

ambitious to take up more room than he has ability to fill — the latter because he makes the public pay for a page of print when perhaps not more than one half of it is letter-press. This I call unfair dealing, and the iniquity of the custom appears (to me at least) in so flagrant a point of view that I have it in contemplation to attempt a general reform in the regions of paper and print, and may perhaps in process of time become a real typical Quixote." — *Letter to Rev. Thomas Wilson*, dated September 11th 1784.

¹ The poem of "The Birch," p. 78, is an exception. It appeared in *The Chester Courant* July 25th 1786, having been purloined from Clitheroe School and claimed as his own composition by "a youth of thirteen," and sent to the press by his astonished father. Mr. Wilson vindicated his own claim to the authorship, and stated that doubtless the application of *the birch* was required in this instance to "teach fundamentally" truthfulness and honesty to the wonderful "youth of thirteen." Mr. Allen, the Vicar of Stradbroke, a learned successor of Mr. Wilson in the living and school of Clitheroe, has defended Wilson's undoubted claim in *Notes and Queries*, vol. x. p. 432. I find amongst Mr. Wilson's MSS. his own original outline of the verses in 1784, and his subsequent additions and verbal corrections are now printed for the first time, and differ from the copy of BALLIOLENSIS in *Notes and Queries*, vol. vii. p. 159. I have also in my possession the manuscript poems, &c., of the Rev. Thomas Bancroft M.A., to whom the lines have been attributed, but they are not in the collection.

will not often attract the reader's notice. Mr. Wilson had his hours of soberness, and was no stranger either to the ills of life or to the works of Herbert or Young; but he must be classed amongst the few lively and facetious writers of the latter half of the last century, and he deals little in mournful strains, moralities, or melancholies. His poetry seems to have been hastily written, seldom polished or corrected, and he was not always a careful versifier. This does not however seriously affect the technical harmony, but is an irregularity in the metre, or perhaps a poetic license which a more exact writer would have avoided, and which Mr. Wilson himself might have corrected had he revised the poems for publication; but he was not ambitious of literary distinction, nor did he write for posterity. It is however possible that he might be of Professor Smythe's opinion, not merely that a bad rhyme might pass, but that, occasionally, a bad rhyme was better than a good one. — Scott's *Minstrelsy*, vol. iv. Appendix, p. 85. Being a man of quick observation and quaint humour, he had at the same time a lightness and gracefulness of expression, which, in his day, was as rare as it is effective. The pieces now printed were written either for the recitation of his pupils, or had reference to passing events. His translation into English verse of Homer's Battle of the Frogs and Mice extends to 450 lines, and could scarcely fail to be admired for its vivacity and beauty and for the spirit of pungent satire which pervades it; but the shorter and more local poems have been selected as characteristic of the author and as more

generally interesting. In his hymns and a few sacred poems which are not included in this selection, he was not in advance of his age; he imitated classical rather than Christian writers, and had not caught the devotional tone of some of the earlier hymnologists. There is a deficiency of pathos and tenderness in these difficult productions of his muse, nor are they finely finished in metrical harmony. His monody on Mr. Roundell's death appears to have been brought under the notice of the Swards of Lichfield, but their opinion of its merits has not been recorded, nor is it quite clear that they knew who the author was.¹

There are certain profane expletives introduced into some of the poems written for the use of schoolboys and publicly recited before their parents, which might seem to indicate a forgetfulness of religious principle, or at least an absence of reverential moral feeling. It may be observed, in extenuation, that this was an evil feature of the times, and that the poet merely delineated the habits of his associates, which, in his early days, he does not appear to have either censured or discouraged, but which in later years he rebuked with homely plainness.² There are also passages in his earlier

¹ See p. 5. In a letter addressed to the Rev. Thomas Seward, dated December 21st 1775, his Curate at Eyam, the Rev. Peter Cunningham, says, "You will observe, perhaps, the Elegy on Mr. Roundell's death, which ought to have had the 17 or 18 verses of the third of *Habakkuk* prefixed to them, [it] are [is] not in my hand," — Nichols's *Liter. Hist.* vol. vi. p. 56. Mr. Cunningham had been curate to the Rev. Robert Smith the Incumbent of Waddington. See p. 179, *Note 3*.

² See an admirable *Note* in his Assize Sermon 1804.

poems in the style of Prior and Swift, which would find no place now in the gayest and most trivial productions of the muse. These "strokes of profaneness,"¹ as Warton justly styles them, "cannot pass unblamed," as they are sometimes painful and always offensive.

There is one poetical effusion known and admired in every part of the county, and invariably attributed to his pen. It is the inscription on the monument of Mrs. Whalley in Whalley Church. That it originated with him is unquestionable, but that it afterwards passed through another alembic and was refined by the process is now equally clear. Mr. Whalley (afterwards Sir James Whalley Gardiner Bart.) addressing his uncle the Rev. Dr. Master, the Rector of Croston, observes:—

"Enclosed I transcribe for your perusal and opinion an epitaph, written by a friend of mine, to the memory of one who (let the future events of my life be what they may) will ever be endeared to me by every the most sacred tie in nature. Epitaphs with characters I in general highly disapprove, knowing they are a purchasable commodity by the most worthless, as well as a just tribute to the most deserving. But it may perhaps be expected, under the circumstances of the case, that something more should be added than merely the time of her birth and death, and the enclosed has as little of the fulsomeness of adulation (too common on such occasions) as any I have met with. It certainly has considerable merit, but is rather too long. You will be kind enough to give me your free unreserved opinion, and if you think any alterations necessary, make them or suggest them to me."—*Letter, dated January 9th, 1786.*

¹ Essay on the Genius of Pope, vol. ii. p. 380.

There are thirty-four lines of very unequal merit, commencing:—

“ Here sleeps Eliza — but how hard her fate !
 How short the period of her nuptial state !
 With drooping myrtles cypress blends its gloom,
 And Hymen’s torch just lighted to the tomb ;
 For life imparted destin’d to the grave,
 Her death’s the purchase of the life she gave ;
 But o’er her urn still Love in anguish weeps,
 And Hymen mourns where dear Eliza sleeps.
 Affection mark’d her whole related life
 As daughter, sister, neighbour, friend, and wife ;
 Soft pity glistened in her melting eye,
 And others’ woes could prompt the tender sigh ;
 Her soul disdain’d the specious gloss of art
 And taught her tongue the language of the heart,
 Cheer’d by RELIGION’s mild and steady ray,
 She closed, in humble HOPE, life’s little day :” &c.

Mr. Whalley again writing to Dr. Master says:—

“ Clerk Hill, March 18, 1786.

“ The enclosed I received by yesterday’s post. Cooper’s observations in general are, I think, sensible, candid and pertinent, and the distinction he makes in Wilson’s composition between a copy of verses and [an] epitaph, perfectly just. How far he has guided himself by his own directions, I shall not pretend to say. Suffice it for me to observe, that my judgment, if such it may be called, instead of inclination, leads me to prefer the second epitaph of Cooper, in which he has not so closely followed Wilson ; and, whichever may be adopted (if either), I think the four last lines in each should be omitted. The compliments paid to Wilson’s verses,

though no more than he deserves, are handsome, especially considering the delicacy of Cooper's situation in criticising and altering a brother poet's composition ! And besides, there is, as Cooper justly says, great difficulty and nicety requisite in abridging, expunging, reserving and amending a composition not one's own, when the plan has already been so well projected, and is so well connected as that of Wilson's. But how must I manage the matter with Wilson ? For I cannot with any sort of delicacy erect a marble with Wilson's ideas dressed in another poet's language, without first mentioning it to him. Something must be done with Wilson before any monument is erected. Tell me, therefore, what you think would be the most delicate way of settling this matter with him."

Mr. Wilson afterwards corrected his own verses, and added, after the opening couplet : —

“The bridal torch just lighted to the tomb,
And festive joys expir'd in funeral gloom !
In darkness clos'd that brightest hour of life
Which hail'd her parent and endear'd her wife ;”

although Cooper's emendations were finally adopted.¹

¹ In the Choir of Whalley Church is a monument “Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of James Whalley Esq. of Clerk Hill, who died September 8th 1785, in the 24th year of her age. She was second daughter of the Rev. Richard Assheton D.D. Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester and Rector of Middleton, by Mary his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Hulls Esq. of Popes in the county of Hereford.

Here sleeps Eliza ! let the marble tell
How young, how sudden, and how dear she fell ;
How blest and blessing in the nuptial tie,
How form'd for every gentle sympathy !

Mr. Wilson published two occasional sermons, preached at considerable intervals in his capacity of Chaplain to William Bamford of Bamford Esq. and to Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme Esq. respectively High Sheriffs of the county.

Her life by heaven approv'd, by earth admir'd,
 Amidst the brightest happiness expir'd ;
 And left an husband fix'd in grief to mourn,
 Widow'd of all her virtues, o'er her urn ;
 Yet while he feels and bends beneath the rod,
 Meek Resignation lifts his eye to God,
 And shews within the blest eternal sphere
 The partner of his bosom sainted there ;
 He bows, and breathes, so Faith has train'd her son,
 Great Sovereign of the World, thy Will be done !"

The epitaph appears to have been written on the model of Mason's lines, polished by Gray, on the death of Miss Drummond, daughter of the Archbishop of York, who died in 1775, beginning :

"Here sleeps — what once was beauty, once was grace ;"
 although superior in every respect to that frigid inscription. It is however far inferior in tenderness and simplicity to the exquisite Latin lines of Dr. Jortin on a wife snatched by death from her husband, written, to deceive antiquaries, in the character of an old classical inscription, commencing :

"Quæ te sub tenera rapuerunt, Pæta, juventa

O ! utinam me crudelia fata vocent," &c.

and which has been translated with great beauty by the Rev. W. L. Bowles :

"O ! would the fates which snatch'd thee in thy bloom,
 Had called me with thee, Pæta ! to the tomb,
 That I might leave the earth, this world of pain,
 The sun, the light, to rest with thee again !
 Thee I shall follow to that dark abode ;
 Love, with his torch, shall light the dreary road,
 The night dispersing as he flies before ;
 Then, only — let a husband's voice implore —

The first was styled "A Sermon preached at the Assizes at Lancaster, August 19, 1787, before Lord Loughborough and Mr. Justice Willes," 4to.

The other, "Religion the Nurse of Loyalty; a Sermon preached in the Parish Church of Lancaster, on Sunday the 12th August 1804, before the Hon. Mr. Justice Chambre and the Hon. Baron Graham. Published at the request of the High Sheriff and Grand Jury," Edward Lord Stanley M.P. being the foreman. Text, 1 Pet. ii. 17. 4to Liverpool. I have only seen the latter sermon, and concur with Bishop Majendie in thinking that "the sentiments were most seasonable and excellent, the arrangement perspicuous, and the style chaste and nervous." (*Letter dated Chester November 15th 1804.*) The Assize Sermon he preached in 1783 at Lancaster as Chaplain to James Whalley Esq. was not published.

We find him in 1791, probably apart from politics, for it has been seen that he was not a propagandist, entering into the views of ministers respecting the insecurity of property, and bemoaning the dangerous prevalence of French revolutionary opinions in England, as disastrous to Europe and to

Taste not of Lethe's stream, rememb'ring me,
So soon to come — ah ! soon I pray — to thee !"

Parochial Hist. of Bremhill, co. Wilts, p. 233.

The Rev. John Cooper M.A. was born in 1741 at Heskin in the parish of Eccleston in the county of Lancaster, where his father was the school-master. Mr. Cooper succeeded his father at Heskin School, and in 1785 became Rector of Bix in the county of Oxon, and Domestic Chaplain to George fourth Earl of Macclesfield. He died 5th December 1801.

mankind. He was circulating Paley's *Reasons for Contentment* and Watson's *Apology*, and temperately exposing the fallacies and delusions of clever though misguided men, who were laying unhallowed hands on the civil and religious rights of the people, openly advocating a community of goods, and spreading alarm if not desolation throughout the country. He wrote:

"All the elements of nature seem in commotion; and if we are to judge of what is to come by what is already past, we shall not be surprised with hail, rain, snow, thunder, lightning, hurricanes, or earthquakes, and the weather of Great Britain is not less violent than the politics of France, although I think it will be sooner reduced to a state of tranquillity."—*Letter to Mr. S. Staniforth, January 2nd 1791.*

The secret springs of the evils then inundating England were to be found in the bad soil of France.

Afterwards he expressed his loyal sentiments, and indirectly alluded to the popular belief that government spies were or had been abroad:

"We kept the King's birthday in great style, being all loyal men. No king's messengers have found their way into *this* borough, and should they arrive, we shall send them soon about their business by convincing them that we are the best subjects in his majesty's dominions. Mrs. Wilson, myself and Miss Nowell had the honour of an invitation on the 4th June to Lord Southwell's, to drink tea, sup, and partake of their evening amusement, which consisted of fireworks, well intended but execrably executed."—*Letter to Mr. Staniforth, June 6th 1794.*

The democratic scenes and augæan disorders which for-

merly afflicted and disgraced "Proud Preston" at the election of Members of Parliament, he regarded as the very quintessence of all bad political therapeutics:

"After spending two very pleasant days at Dr. Master's, I took up my abode for the remainder of the week at Dr. St. Clare's, and found the town of Proud Preston in great political commotion. 'The King and John Horrocks' was 'sung and said' and vociferated in every street; and the different parties were too sore to bear the slightest touch. *Green* wounds with prudent management are soon healed; but Preston is afflicted with an *ulcer*, which, though palliatives may be occasionally applied, will admit of no cure." — *Letter to Thomas Staniforth Esq. Aug. 19th 1796.*

It is not honourable to the warm glow of Mr. Wilson's ordinary humanity, nor creditable to his religious principles, that he should have entertained views hostile to the adoption of gradual and judicious measures for the abolition of the slave trade. He had thought much on the subject, and his mind was long in a state of oscillation, so that he wrote both against the traffic and in its favour; but his deliberate opinions, expressed to his Liverpool friend Mr. Staniforth, as well as in an elaborate pamphlet in which he endeavoured to work out the difficult problem of emancipation, leave no doubt that he deemed Mr. Wilberforce and the other leading abolitionists as dangerous philanthropists, hazarding the interests of a large class of British merchants, without producing any decided benefit to the slave. Fortunately for the oppressed, the mistaken views of the timid and cautious, as well as the projects of injustice and avarice, were overcome by the predominating spirit of Christianity:

“I have been deceived in my expectation of the result of Wilberforce’s motion. I wish no other consequences may flow from the abolition but such as his philanthropic dreams suggest. It is, I think, a bold experiment. Amidst the frenzy of freedom and the paroxysm of patriotism we seem to set prudence and policy at defiance, and overlook the *wrongs* from an intemperate zeal for the *rights of men*; while we are hurried away by an enthusiastie fervour of *liberty*, we seem to forget that there is such a thing as violation of *property*, and I am afraid that our kindness to slaves may be counterbalanced by the sufferings of freemen. The longings for liberty now excited in the breasts of the Island Negroes will not only fill their minds with discontent, but prepare them for some violent exertions to anticipate the moment of emancipation. Happy before in unfeeling tranquillity and thoughtless indifference, they now begin to show a keen sensibility to their degraded situation, which can have no other consequence but to increase their sorrows and qualify them for more exquisite misery.” — *Letter to Thomas Staniforth Esq. April 25th 1792.* See also pp. 142 and 144.

His theological views were of the old orthodox school, upon the whole catholic and evangelical; and if his teachings were not remarkable for their strong advocacy of the claims of the Reformation, they were at least simple and earnest, and appear to have given no umbrage to the laity. He came up to the clerical standard of the day, but it was not high either for devotedness or consistency.¹

¹ He said: “I have the charity to believe that almost all denominations of Christians, if we rightly understood their tenets, agree in the *essentials* of religion, and generally inculcate the necessity of a good life as the *genuine fruit* by which the efficacy of our faith is to be ascertained.”—p. 17, *Note to Sermon*, 1804.

His social intimacy with several influential Roman Catholic families and his own naturally amiable disposition may have led him to embrace a little more of the element of expediency than the inflexible dogmatism of truth and principle would seem to warrant, and yet he was uncompromising when the occasion required firmness.¹ It may be noticed that a well known aspiration of the Church of Rome on sepulchral memorials, involving a doctrine silently ignored by the Church of England, was on several occasions introduced by Mr. Wilson, but his mature views on the point in question have not been ascertained.²

His generally negative theology was probably the result of constant attention to the business of his school, which tended to secularise his religious views, and rendered some of them at least ambiguous if not positively hurtful.

The venerable Mr. Harris observes that Mr. Wilson was very tolerant of other men's opinions, but strictly adhered in his own preaching to the doctrines of the Church, generally giving appropriate sermons on the Fasts and Festivals, and not unfrequently availing himself of the pious labours of his great namesake, the Apostolic Bishop of Sodor and Man. Mr. Addison also, an equally competent authority, vindicates the orthodoxy of his old master, which may have been, I am glad to believe, unjustly impugned, and referring to the manner in which those subjects were at that time understood or misunderstood, well observes that the change of pulpit sentiment has been so great that we detect incon-

¹ See p. 155.

² See pp. 191, 210.

sistent statements which escaped the less keen perception of our fathers, and can hardly comprehend that they believed at all what they did not exactly believe in our way.

It may be recorded that his manner in the pulpit was not remarkable either for dignity or effect, and that, like Crabbe's Rector, he was "careless of hood and band." His voice was neither powerful nor melodious, and yet he was admired in his day as a preacher, although he had a peculiarity of utterance which induced him to hurry over parts of a sentence as though he suffered from a natural impediment. In the Litany he substituted the word "omissions" for "negligences," and this was attributed not to conceit or presumption, but to some physical inability to pronounce the latter word.

Mr. Wilson was a member of the Christian Knowledge Society, and circulated its publications.

On the 19th February 1792, he wrote a long and able letter against the abrogation of the Test and Corporation Acts, the sum and substance of which was that nothing new could be said upon the subject, and that every thing which could be urged was but *dictum dicere et actum agere*.

In 1794 he visited Cambridge for the purpose of taking the degree of Bachelor of Divinity (under a statute recently abolished), having so far back as the spring of 1779 entered himself of Trinity College. Bishop Hinchliffe was at that time the Master, and his lordship's connection with Wilson's neighbours the Shuttleworths of Gawthorpe might induce him to fix upon Trinity rather than St. John's, the favourite

Sedbergh College, as well as the circumstance of his school-fellow, early friend, and confidential correspondent Mr. Cranke being then a Fellow and Tutor of the College. This gentleman frequently urged Mr. Wilson to complete his degree, and frequently the request was negatived. At length his concession was reluctantly obtained, and he had the honour of becoming the guest of Dr. Kipling, the head of Trinity. He spent five weeks in those classic regions with great satisfaction; but, as Mr. Pepys said when he first "set up" his new coach, "most expensful to his purse on a thing of honour," Wilson having, as he jocosely told Dr. Tatham, "parted with his inheritance in order to obtain a degree."¹ His Latin and English Sermons preached at St. Mary's were carefully written, but were not published.

On returning from Cambridge he visited his patron, Assheton Lord Curzon, at Hagley, and had the honour of being appointed Domestic Chaplain to his lordship, whose son the Hon. George A. W. Curzon, in 1802, gave him, on his own solicitation, the small Incumbency of Downham. These appear to have been the only advantages and distinctions resulting from his academical career, and they might probably have been obtained without it.

About the latter part of the last century, Mr. Wilson formed an intimate acquaintance with the Rev. Dr. Whitaker,² who had come to reside at his paternal seat, the

¹ He sold his farm to the Dr. in 1794. See p. iv. *Note 1*, ante.

² In the first edition of the *History of Whalley*, (p. 23, 4to, 1800,) a hope is expressed that Mr. C. Towneley would one day gratify the public with an

Holme, and whose deeply religious views, clerical activity and high intellectual attainments were much respected in the neighbourhood. With a view of bringing the clergy together for social and religious intercourse, Dr. Whitaker instituted a sort of literary club, consisting of half a dozen members, whose tastes were congenial, and who dined together at each other's houses once a month for several years. Mr. Starkie¹ the Vicar of Blackburn, Mr. Barton²

account of the fine Roman helmet found at Ribchester. This was actually done, as I am kindly reminded by T. B. Addison of Preston Esq., before the History appeared, in a paper sent by Mr. Towneley to the Society of Antiquaries, although Dr. Whitaker repeats the hope in the last edition of his *Whalley* without any allusion to Mr. Towneley's article, (p. 28.) This appeared in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, vol. iv. plates 1, 2, 3, 4, and contains a notice that Dr. Whitaker and Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe had seen in company the sphinx once attached to this helmet as a crest, showing that their common interest in antiquarian studies goes back to the date of the discovery in 1796.

¹ See p. 195, *Note* 1.

² The Rev. William Barton was the son of a surgeon in Preston. He studied medicine at Edinburgh and Vienna, and graduated in that faculty at the former place; the delicacy of his constitution, however, and his ardent desire to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness inducing him to change the course of his studies, he became of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1795, and afterwards entered into Holy Orders. He was successively Incumbent of Samlesbury, Langho and Great Harwood, in Lancashire, and was for many years a physician both to the souls and bodies of his poor parishioners. Owing to feeble health he resigned his Church preferment and retired to Lytham. Thoroughly versed in the ancient he was master also of several of the modern languages. An accurate naturalist and a most ingenious preacher, his acquaintance with the animal and vegetable kingdoms frequently enabled him to draw his illustrations from them with great felicity and effect. The pen of partial friend-

the Incumbent of Harwood, Mr. Smith¹ the Incumbent of Waddington, and Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe were amongst the regular members. Dr. Coulthurst² the Vicar of Halifax, Mr. Rowland Ingram³ the Vicar of Giggleswick, Mr.

ship might eulogise the sterling virtues which illuminated his character, their enduring tablet is in the hearts of those who knew his private worth and could estimate the richness of his mental endowments. (*Leeds Intelligencer*, April 2, 1829.) He died at Lytham March 19th 1829 in his sixty-sixth year, having no issue by his wife Ann, daughter of Dr. Chew of Billington, near Whalley. A volume of his early manuscript poems and translations is in my possession, but the language is neither rich nor pictorial, and is deficient in that classical and mellifluous diction which distinguished many of the productions of his old tutor and sincere friend Mr. Wilson. The general style partakes too largely of that formality which one of the Wartons, speaking of Mason, described by the expressive epithet of *buckram*. There is, however, in the poems the impress of a genial and loving nature, full of good sentiments, kind feeling, purity and simplicity, all obviously springing from a heart warmed by the great Christian law of love. His knowledge of botany was extensive and systematic, and, adopting Gilbert White's advice, he studied plants philosophically, investigated the laws of vegetation, and ascertained, for the best of purposes, the virtues of efficacious herbs. He was a man greatly beloved by all the members of the club here named, and had a good place in society.

¹ See p. 179, *Note 3*.

² See p. 190, *Note 2*.

³ The Rev. Rowland Ingram was the second and only younger son of the Rev. Robert Ingram M.A., Vicar of Wormingford and Boxted in Essex. He was born at the former place 19th of May 1765, and educated at the Grammar School of Dedham. He was of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and graduated seventh Wrangler and B.A. 1786 (his elder brother, the Rev. Robert Acklom Ingram, having been senior Wrangler two years previously), elected Fellow of Sidney and retained his Fellowship until his marriage in 1798 with his cousin Mary, second daughter of Sir Cuthbert Shafto of Bavington in the county of Northumberland, Knt. The following

Dawson¹ of Sedbergh, and Mr. Cockin² of Milnthorpe were occasionally welcome guests in this literary atmosphere. At

inscription on his monument in Giggleswick Church preserves the memory of this good and learned man :

Hic Requiescunt in Christo
 ROLANDUS INGRAM, B. D.
 Natus Vorminford In Com. Essex.
 Olim Syd. Suss. Coll. Apud Cant. Socius,
 Scholæ Regis Edvardi VI^{ti} De Giggleswick
 Per Annos XLV Magister,
 Vir Eruditionis, Comitatis, Pietatis,
 Charitatis Eximiae :
 Obiit Non. Feb. A. D. MDCCCLVIII Æt. LXXXIII :
 Neenon
 MARIA, Uxor Ejus
 Filia Natu Secunda Cuthberti Shafto De Bavington
 In Com. Northumbr. Equitis,
 Fœmina Tali Viro Digna :
 Obiit VI^{to} Id. Mart. A. D. MDCCCLXXXVIII Æt. LXVIII.
"Domine Tu Nôsti Quod Amem Te." Joh. XXI, 15.

On the 1st of January 1828 his pupils presented Mr. Ingram with a gift of plate after a public dinner at Settle. In 1844 he retired from the school, and in January of the following year "the Ingram Testimonial fund" was commenced, and out of the fund so raised £125 was paid for a portrait of Mr. Ingram by Bowness, and for the engraving of it. The residue of the subscription was expended upon a memorial window for the school library and also in the purchase of books for the library. In a letter dated February 6th 1846 and addressed to William Robinson of Settle Esq., treasurer of the fund, Mr. Ingram observed : "When the discharge of duties is accompanied with the sincere desire to have them faithfully fulfilled, so long as human nature remains as it is there must always be in the retrospect more or less a sense of deficiency ; this has ever been by me most strongly felt. Under the consciousness of imperfection there cannot be afforded within the compass of this life a more valued solace and gratification, especially applicable to its last days and in retirement, than the assured approbation of kind

these meetings there was much sympathy of moral and religious feeling, elegant hospitality, pleasurable conversation

and esteemed friends. Submitting it therefore to themselves to judge how highly I must estimate a testimonial, altogether so unexpected, of the approval of those, whom I have greatest cause to respect and esteem, I beg that you will be so good as to accept for yourself and convey to all who have in any way supported or contributed to what they are pleased to call the "Ingram Testimonial" the assurance of my warmest thanks on my account, and of my heart's desire and sincerest prayers for the future prosperity of King Edward the Sixth's Free Grammar School at Giggleswick, to the increased advantage of the country, and the mutual satisfaction of all who co-operate in its direction and government." Shortly after his death the following entry was made by the Governors of the school in their *Minute Book*: "13 March, 1848. The Governors have to record the death of the retired Head Master, the Rev. Rowland Ingram B.D., which took place on the 5 Feb. last in the 83d year of his age. He was esteemed and beloved by all who knew him, and his remains were attended to the grave by all the Governors, the neighbouring Clergy, the Masters and Scholars, and by many friends and neighbours, who came uninvited to testify their admiration of his truly Christian character and their respect for his memory." "The Ingram Prize" has been founded anonymously, and is given each alternate year for the best English essay written by any of the scholars on the Fifth Commandment or on the Love of God. It has hitherto been an elegantly bound Family Bible, embellished with the Ingram arms.

¹ [p. lvii.] See p. 105, *Note 1*.

² [p. lvii.] William Cockin was born at or near Milnthorpe, and was an early friend and correspondent of Mr. Wilson. He was for many years the writing master and accomptant of Lancaster Grammar School, and published (1) "A Rational and Practical Treatise of Arithmetic. To which is added, in the manner of Notes, The Reason and Demonstration of every Rule and Operation, as they occur, on principles purely Arithmetical, or such as will easily be comprehended by a Beginner." Lond. 1766, 8vo, 6s. (2) "The Art of Delivering Written Language; or an Essay on Reading." Lond. 1775, 12mo. (3) "An Account of an Extraordinary Appearance in a Mist near Lancaster, January 13th 1768; by Mr. W. Cockin; communi-

and quiet enjoyment. The subjects discussed — previously announced — were of a general and miscellaneous descrip-

ated to the Royal Society by Joseph Banks Esq. the President." *Philos. Trans.* vol. lxx. part i. 1780. Dr. Priestley considered the additional rows of colours discovered by Mr. Cockin as one of the *desiderata* of optics. See *Gent. Mag.* vol. l. p. 521. Mr. Wilson, writing to Mr. James of Arthuret in the county of Cumberland in 1782, in Mr. Cockin's behalf, observes: "You are neither a stranger to his situation nor unacquainted with the modesty and excessive delicacy of his disposition. The way of life into which fortune has thrown him is much below his real merits, and to see a man of genius grovelling towards the evening of life in a profession inferior to many of the mechanical arts, and more laborious than most of them, is not a very pleasing sight." Mr. James had discovered that Cockin, with all his great abilities, "was not one of the sons of fortune; every body allows his merits, every body pities him, even the great man shakes his head, laments that so much worth should meet with such neglect, and then bestows the rewards which he ought to have had on — a scoundrel!" *Letter to Mr. Wilson, April 25, 1783.* Cockin's "Essay on Reading" was known to Mr. Melmoth, the author of "Fitzosborne's Letters," who in June 1776 was delivering public lectures on elocution and literary subjects at Lancaster, being the guest of the Rev. J. Collinson, who, writing to Mr. Wilson, said: "The excellent lecturer was well acquainted with our friend Cockin's book, of which he spoke as an ingenious performance, although he did not approve of every part of it. He also mentioned Lord Kames as having read it, and spoken of it as a capital production." (*Letter, June 7, 1776.*) Mr. Cockin also wrote some poems, which are amongst Wilson's manuscripts, but they were probably not published, and they certainly exhibit none of the piquancy of Mr. Wilson's style. Mr. Cockin died in 1801 unmarried, and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Clough of Burton-in-Lonsdale, and other friends, importuned Mr. Wilson to write his Life, and to edit his "Poems, without the Notes." In November 1803 the request had not been granted. Mr. Cockin's two nephews, Mr. John Pearson and his brother, both Sedbergh scholars, died unmarried, and Mr. Canon Mackreth, Rector of Halton, the executor of the survivor, has informed me that he sold their library a few years ago, which contained some curious and scarce books, formerly their uncle Cockin's.

tion, embracing matters affecting the Church, literature and politics, and rendered especially attractive by the playful humour of Wilson, the mechanical listlessness of Starkie, the meditative tenderness of Barton, and the masculine freshness and warmth of Whitaker. As a proof of Whitaker's estimate of his friend's literary ability and an acknowledgment of his scholarship, he not unfrequently consulted him on classical subjects, and, notwithstanding his own superiority, did not hesitate sometimes to rely upon Wilson's judgment and taste whilst he distrusted his own. Doctor Whitaker dedicated one of the plates (x.) in his *History of Whalley* to Mr. Wilson in the following graceful terms: — "Viro Reverendo Thomæ Wilson S.T.B. Ecclesiæ de Clitheroe Ministro — Sodali jucundissimo, *αρχαιολογῶ* insigni, felici juvenum institutori,¹ hanc tabulam vovet T. D. Whitaker."

Nor ought it to be forgotten that it was the latest wish of Mr. Wilson that his accomplished and excellent friend should write his epitaph, a request easily granted and not inadequately performed.²

On Sunday, the 30th September 1804, he sustained a

¹ This (Clitheroe School) is one of the few foundations which, in the present rage of commercial innovation, has been able in any degree to preserve its original character as a classical seminary. — Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, p. 287, 4to, 1800.

² Letter of Thomas Carr Esq. to Dr. Whitaker, dated Blackburn 13th March 1813; and yet Dr. Whitaker speaks of the inscription (*Whalley*, p. 285) as having been written by him at the request of Mr. Wilson's pupils. Both statements are correct.

heavy shock in the death of his wife, who was perfectly well in the morning of that day, having walked with him to church, but during the confession was seized with paralysis. She was conveyed home in a chair, evinced great restlessness, sank into a state of drowsiness, and then into sleep from which she never awoke. He was probably not a person of intense sensibility, but he said he felt as one who had lost one of the greatest comforts of his life, and he endeavoured to bear the privation with the submission of a Christian. (*Letter, October 4th 1804.*) He observed afterwards it was like the loss of an useful limb, but that the place of amputation ought to be suffered to heal, and the privation be regarded as one of the many casualties to which in the rough journey of life we are continually exposed. The High Sheriff and his mother¹ — the latter through life an attached friend of Mrs. Wilson — were unceasing in their attentions, and his many friends sympathised with him in his sorrow, the tide of which long continued silently to flow. Domestic cares, to which he had been a stranger, now crowded upon him, and every return to his house furnished him with a painful recollection of his irreparable loss.²

In 1807 he had the unexpected honour of having the Rectory of Claughton, near Lancaster, offered to him by

¹ Mrs. Parker of Browsholme.

² Mrs. Wilson, by her first husband, had three children: (1) Charles Nowell, died in 1783, (see p. 136.) (2) William Nowell, died suddenly, a clerk in the Admiralty, in 1790. (3) Miss Nowell, died at Blackburn in 1824.

his old pupil, Thomas Fenwick of Borough Hall in the county of Westmoreland Esq., "as a testimony of respect for the attention and care received whilst under Mr. Wilson's tuition;" and as a mark of Bishop Majendie's high regard for Mr. Wilson's character and attainments, he was allowed to hold it along with his other small livings, notwithstanding the Bishop's general rule to abridge pluralities as far as possible. Although the Bishop, in the first instance, considerably granted this permission, his Lordship afterwards felt that three parishes and a grammar school required rather more superintendence than they were likely to receive, and the new Rector seems to have been on the point of losing one of his miserable benefices. He wrote to the Bishop in his usual sportive style :

"If I resign Clitheroe, I might say in sacred language, *εκερδῆσα ἔημιαν* — 'I have *gained* a loss;' and if I resign Claughton, it will be said of me, 'the last state of that man is worse than the first!' The offer of the living will have proved a trap, baited by friendship, and the bait rendered more captivating by your Lordship's indulgence. The trap has struck, and I am caught. It is consequently my business *ut me quam queam minimo redimam*."

The Bishop granted a licence of non-residence, and Mr. Wilson was inducted, on the 30th May 1807, to a Rectory of less than £100 a year, out of which he had to support a Curate, in a parish containing ninety-two inhabitants.¹

¹ Mr. Wilson sent the Bishop a copy of his *Arch. Dic.*, and in acknowledging its receipt his Lordship observed: "If I had needed any proof of your zeal and ability for the promotion and extension of learning, such a work must afford the most ample testimony." — *Chester*, Oct. 2, 1807.

Mr. Wilson seems to have been at no time a very robust man, his infirmities being probably superinduced by his studious habits and want of regular exercise, and at the age of fifty, when the lymphatic often gets the better of the sanguine element in the constitution, his health became a subject of serious consideration. What he first considered to be chronic rheumatism proved to be gout, attended with jaundice, sciatica and ultimately with organic disease of the heart. He looked upon the gout as his sheet anchor against other disorders of the system, and "Madeira, flannel and patience" were the "ammunition with which he fortified himself" against its periodical assaults. His enchanting natural vivacity and playfulness of manner never failed him,¹ and in one of his bulletins of health, as he happily observed, these frequent attacks "suggest caution without deadening enjoyment." (*Letter to S. Staniforth Esq., December 11, 1803.*) After his wife's death his letters contain constant allusions to the unsatisfactory state of his health, and he appears to have been a great sufferer to the end of his life, although he scarcely seems to have thought, with Norris of Bemerton, that the danger to a Christian consists, not in being ill, but in being well.

In February 1808 he experienced so agonizing a pa-

¹ One of his boys had been skating, and the ice having given way he had been in the water. On returning home the lad was summarily dismissed supperless to bed. Nothing daunted by the command, the young urchin pleaded for his supper. The snuff box was soon out, and, tapping the lid as usual, Mr. Wilson exclaimed, "Supper, sir! supper! when you already have had a *skate* and a *couple of ducks!*"

roxysm of his malady, and had so bad an opinion of his case, that he supposed his end to be approaching, and was induced to make his will, which nevertheless, after the crisis, was the subject of much humorous but unbecoming observation to his kind-hearted friend Mr. Staniforth. Mercutio jesting, although aware that he was mortally wounded, and the dying Falstaff cracking his jokes on Bardolph's nose, have not been generally considered favourable specimens of a Christian's death-bed, although, like Mr. Wilson's jocose trifling, indicative of "the ruling passion." For more than a fortnight he converted his dining-room into his school-room, and "served up at the table provisions for the mind as well as for the body," as the weary work of teaching could not be stayed. In his affliction, his old and singular friend "the bold Rector,"¹ leaving his fellow Nimrods and ramrods, visited and sympathised with him, and, not marvellous to relate, they "spent a very comfortable day together." — *Ibid*, March 31, 1808.

At midsummer he was enabled to visit his little flock at Claughton, and revived at Lancaster the almost expiring acquaintance which he had formed in the days of his youth. The pleasure which he received from this visit was com-

¹ The Rev. Henry Wigglesworth of Townhead was of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, B.A. 1781 as ninth senior optime, M.A. 1784. He was instituted on his own petition in 1782 to the Rectory of Slaidburn, where he died April 14, 1838, aged 80, having been fifty-six years the Rector. His relict, (Mary, daughter of Thomas Browne of Grassington in Craven, Esq.) a lady of great benevolence, has lately presented a peal of bells and also a clock to the church of Slaidburn. — See p. 174, *Note* 1.

pared by him to the satisfaction which is derived from restoring animation when the vital spark has been nearly extinguished. He had not forgotten the serious illness of the spring, and, dwelling upon it, observed that "no man, previous to experience, could conceive the horrible effects of jaundice both upon the mind and body: the body bowed down by extreme debility, languor and lassitude, and the mind sunk by it into a state of weakness bordering upon melancholy and idiotcy. The most whimsical and hideous dreams infest and disturb the sleep, and the hands become so tremulous that they are unable to bear a glass to the mouth, nor could a pen be used without great difficulty and painful attention — but," he feelingly added, "a pen was an useless instrument in my hand, because I had no ideas in my head." (*Letter to Mr. Staniforth, December 1808.*) And at the end of the year some salutary impressions, it may be hoped, still remained and admonished him that if his days were evil they would be few, as we find him declining to attend "the masqued ball at Mr. Joe Greaves's,¹ as masqued balls did not suit him at that time." He solaced himself, however, by reflecting that, as the whole world was a masquerade, in which the same individual assumed different

¹ He was Major in Colonel Bolton's regiment of "Invincibles," raised in Liverpool June 2nd 1803, and disbanded August 25th 1806. He lived in Mount Pleasant, and was a partner with Mr. Anthony Molyneux. He "kept a glorious house, and welcomed every body and was welcome every where. A fine fellow was the Major, as ever we set eyes upon, and the father of as fine a family as ever sprung up, like olive branches, round any man's table." — *Liverpool a Few Years Since*, 12mo, 1852.

characters, a masquerade presented no novelty; but he still resolved to visit Liverpool and his old friend, not in his mask but, in his genuine character, as *Sam. Staniforth*. — *Letter to Mr. Staniforth, December 20, 1808.*

After many premonitory symptoms he was seized with a paralytic affection as he returned home on horseback from Mr. Starkie's of Blackburn on the evening of the 13th of April 1810, and was deprived of the free use of his right leg, and on the 23rd of May he was still unable to walk without assistance. He patiently waited God's leisure, and not being deprived of hope found, with Johnson, that hope itself was happiness! He described the limb as feeling cold and benumbed, with a creeping sensation as though the flesh was disposed to divorce itself from its union with the bones, his *right* side having become his *wrong* side, and his *left* side his *right*. — *Letter to Mr. Staniforth, May 23, 1810.*

From the effects of this seizure it seems probable that he never recovered, although in the same year, in order to benefit the neighbourhood, and, as he hoped, to enlarge his own sphere of usefulness, he consented to act as a magistrate, and it is said that in discharging the duties of this office he was singularly patient in the investigation of evidence, lenient in enforcing the law, and scrupulous in maintaining the independence of the bench. His views on the subject of clergymen being placed in the commission of the peace were expressed as follows in 1782, in a letter to the Rev. Dr. Patten. It need scarcely be named

that the first and principal part of the second qualification on which he based his argument is no longer applicable, at least to Lancashire clergymen; but in his day ministerial work was little known and less practised :

“I give joy to the neighbourhood on your commencing Justice of Peace. A person in every respect so well qualified is a valuable acquisition to the bench in the country. There is no concealing the fact that the bench has been gradually sinking into contempt through the want of men of enlarged views and liberal sentiments. Poor Owen [Rector of Warrington?] expressed to me his apprehensions and horrors on the death of Mr. Lyon, and confessed himself qualified only to act a subordinate part, and therefore proceeded with his colleague on the principle of implicit faith. Like the Pope, his coadjutor was to him a man of infallibility ! I am aware that some narrow-minded men have made a foolish attempt to prove the impropriety of clergymen acting in this capacity, but I cannot conceive that any order of men are better calculated for the charge. They have learning and a liberal education as their first qualification — they have leisure, a taste for reading, and ability for reasoning as a second — and the nature of their profession will necessarily incline them to a love of justice tempered with humanity as a third and the most essential qualification.”

He has drawn an accurate and vivid picture of the miseries which sometimes befall a manufacturing district from over speculation, from the improvidence of the labouring classes, and from an abuse of the poor laws. The last evil has been wisely checked by judicious legislation, but no legislation can check the former. Since Mr. Wilson's time, the rapid advance of the nation in wealth, the in-

crease of its population, the well ventilated subjects of pauperism, emigration, manufactures, machinery, agriculture and mining, have all combined to influence and, to a certain extent, change our social relations; and an improved and general system of education is quietly elevating the character and promoting the happiness of the people.¹ He appears to have exerted himself with unusual activity in the winter of 1812 on behalf of his old pupil, Colonel Patten, whose loss of his parliamentary seat in that year for the county town was erroneously supposed to have been the result of a political compromise or coalition with Mr. Cawthorne; but the correspondence on the subject, having lost much of its interest, has not been printed. The Colonel selected Mr. Wilson as one of his friends to explain his position, vindicate his character, and publicly to state his unaltered views to the magistrates and freeholders of his locality. Mr. Wilson's opinion of electioneering tactics and the sort of guerilla warfare ordinarily practised at such periods of excitement may not inappropriately find a place here. Many a fierce and noisy squib, flying about and doing vigorous, and sometimes heroic, execution at more than one borough election, proceeded from his ready and racy pen.

“ I received your packet franked upon his Majesty's service, and am glad to find such a number of pamphlets, hand-bills, literary squibs and crackers are in circulation. Many of them are in a low style, but they will not be without their effects, as it

¹ See pp. 204-5.

is necessary to hit the humours and conform to the different capacities of the people. A joke will sometimes be more successful than a logical argument, and a pithy pun than a ponderous paragraph. John Bull must be treated as John Bull, and may be roused to higher indignation by the teazings of a monkey than by the barkings of a mastiff."

His hands as well as his head about this time continued to be, as he observed, "full of ecclesiastical, civil and pastoral engagements;" and nephritic twinges, a vitiated system, and an inactive body must, in addition to these duties, have rendered school work a peculiarly dreary employment. But still he responded to the familiar call of the early bell, for, according to ancient custom, the boys were assembled in the school every morning, summer and winter, at seven o'clock, and his labours were uninterruptedly pursued. To the festive seasons of midsummer and Christmas he had long looked forward with all the ardour of a school-boy, for he then escaped, as a toil-worn labourer, from the routine of duty, and visited distant friends, who appear to have been rich in those personal qualities which form the best charm of society. Amongst these may be named Mr. Cross¹ of Redscar, Mr. Shuttleworth² and Mr. Addison³ of Preston,

¹ See p. 148, *Note 1*.

² See p. 41, *Note 1*.

³ John Addison Esq. was born at Preston in 1754, Barrister at law, and connected with Clitheroe as professional agent for the Curzon family in their severe contest for that borough, and subsequently during their undisturbed interest in it. Mr. Wilson's oration (p. xxxi. ante) when he proposed Mr. Addison as Out Bailiff, would be delivered in October (the week after the feast of St. Denys) in one of the following years, 1796,

but, above all, Mr. Staniforth¹ of Liverpool. With the family of the last named gentleman he had been on terms

1799, 1801, 1811, unless he had been proposed and not elected at an earlier period. The corporation was governed by two important civic functionaries called "the In" and "the Out" Bailiffs, one being chosen from the resident and the other from the non-resident burgesses. It was customary to give the Out Bailiff precedence. Mr. Addison highly appreciated the charms of Mr. Wilson's society, and he always found himself a welcome guest at Preston, but, like Porson, had generally to be reminded when it was time to retire for the night — or more probably for the morning. Mr. Addison was a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Lancaster, and died in 1837 in his eighty-third year, leaving two sons, Thomas Batty Addison Esq. Recorder of Preston (see p. 36), and John Addison Esq. Judge of the County Court of Clitheroe, &c.

¹ See p. 131, *Note 1*. The only person who ever thought harshly of Mr. Samuel Staniforth is the clever author of *Liverpool a Few Years Since*, 12mo, 1852. All who knew Mr. Staniforth feel indignant at the wanton injustice done to his memory by the Rector of Althorpe. There is a pedigree of the Staniforths in Hunter's *History of Hallamshire*, p. 252. It may be added that Samuel Staniforth of Darnall and Liverpool Esq. (his house at the bottom of Ranelagh Street is now the Waterloo Hotel), was born February 6th 1769, educated at Clitheroe by Mr. Wilson, married April 28th 1800 Mary, daughter of Henry Littledale Esq. and sister of Sir Joseph Littledale the Judge, and died April 5th 1851, leaving issue two children: I. *Sarah Staniforth*, born June 1805, married May 1828, Frederick Greenwood Esq. of Ryshworth Hall near Ripon, (the founder of Birstwith Church,) and has issue two children: (1) John Greenwood, born in 1829, of Swarcliffe Hall near Otley Esq. M.P. for Ripon, married in 1852, Louisa, daughter of Nathaniel Barnardiston of the Ryes in the county of Suffolk Esq., and has a son and other issue; (2) Mary Littledale Greenwood, born 1831, married 1853, R. Hawkins Esq. II. *The Rev. Thomas Staniforth M.A.*, born 11th February 1807 and married September 26th 1837, Harriet, daughter of Charles Hampden Turner of Rook's Nest, near Godstone, in Surrey, Esq. He was instituted to the Rectory of Bolton by Bowland 21st November 1831.

of far more than ordinary friendship. His annual visits and correspondence — the latter full of playfulness, but unfortunately devoid of all seriousness of thinking, and I hope not like Shenstone's letters, the history of his mind — extended over more than thirty years. Mr. Parker of Browsholme, Lady Gardiner of Clerk Hill, Mr. Tempest of Broughton, as well as the Vicars of Whalley and Blackburn, equally appreciated his personal excellencies, enjoyed his great conversational powers, and welcomed him as their periodical guest. In their genial society he both found and communicated entertainment, and he sadly felt that the school vacations too quickly glided away.

In January 1813 he returned from Redscar, where he had met "a few of the usual party and had enjoyed temperate and cheerful conviviality," and the day was fixed for his visit to Mr. Staniforth, who was at that time the Mayor of Liverpool and dispensing munificent hospitalities. "I am anticipating the day of meeting," said he, "with great pleasure, for, to use the words of the most gentlemanly poet that ever wrote —

'Nil ego contulerim jucundis sanus amicis.'"

The friends, however, met no more, for to one of them the night closed in suddenly, and he may be said to have died almost whilst publicly discharging his religious duties.

Addressing the Governors of the school on the 5th of March 1813, William Carr Esq. observed :

"It is a painful duty to me to inform you of the death of the

Rev. Thomas Wilson, which took place on Wednesday morning the 3rd of March. He discharged the duties of his Church on Sunday with his usual energy, but during Monday night had two or three more paralytic fits, and as he did not speak nor appear sensible afterwards his sufferings were not great.”¹

The frail tabernacle had long been shattered, but the light which illumined it neither gradually died out nor flickered in the socket, trembling with the breath of departing life, and scarcely visible in the darkness it once irradiated. It was suddenly quenched. He passed quietly away from his friends. His church and school were vacant, for his work was finished, and the “merry heart,” which had often “done good like a medicine,” was stilled in death. In a few days his remains, according to his request, reposed peacefully in the chancel of the old gray church of the Pudseys at Bolton-juxta-Bowland. Through life he had been generous and large hearted, careless of money but not improvident, and he died a poor man; his effects were valued at less than £1,500, as appears by his will dated the 18th of February 1808 and proved at Chester the 11th of March 1814. He desired to be interred “near the remains of his late dear wife,” and after giving small legacies to his step-daughter, Miss Nowell (who was in good circum-

¹ Letter in the School Chest. The Governors at this time were Thomas Parker of Alkincoats Esq. (1782), Thomas Clayton of Carr Hall Esq. (1790), William Assheton of Downham Hall Esq. (1796), Josias Robinson of Chatburn Esq. (1797), Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme Hall Esq. (1802), and John Aspinall of Standen Hall Esq. (1807).—*Grammar School Book.*

stances), to his old servant George Slater, and to his executor William Carr of Blackburn Esq. Attorney-at-Law, he bequeathed the residue amongst his four sisters, Jane the wife of Edmund Bradley, Agnes the wife of John Proctor, Isabella the wife of James Nicholson, and Elizabeth the wife of John Dawson.

Shortly after his death a sketch of his character, "written by a very old friend" (supposed to be the Rev. William Barton), appeared in the *Blackburn Mail*.¹

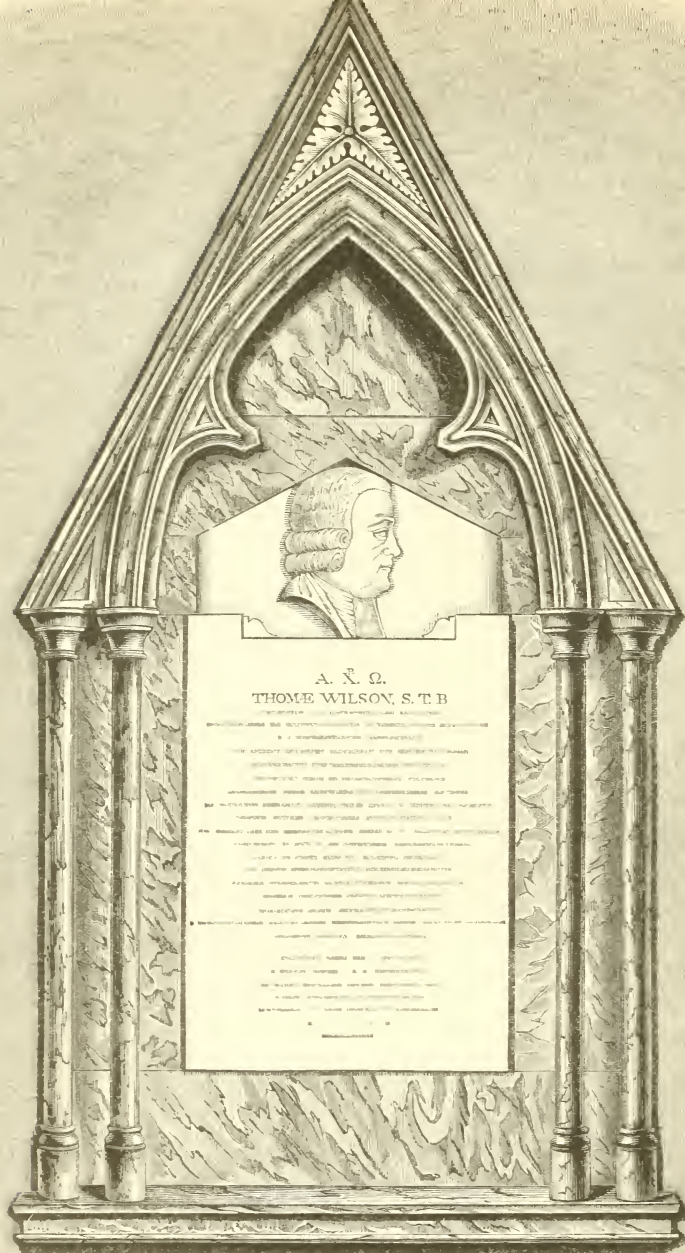
Mr. Locke observes that "memorable is the piety of Marcus Aurelius, who obtained permission from the Senate

¹ "On Wednesday last, at Clitheroe, aged 67, universally respected, the Rev. Thomas Wilson, B.D. Rector of Claughton, Incumbent of the Parochial Churches of Clitheroe and Downham, Head Master of the Free Grammar School of Clitheroe, and one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this county. As a Minister of the Gospel his discourses were plain, instructive, and energetic. His upright, ingenuous, and unoffending conduct, together with an ancient simplicity of manners, endeared him to his parishioners; whilst his liberality and tolerance of sentiment gained him the esteem of those of different persuasions. The number of distinguished characters, that have emanated from this gentleman's excellent seminary, well attest the talents and industry therein displayed: and at the same time the devotion and ardent attachment (an attachment only terminated by death) of the pupil to the preceptor, and of the preceptor to the pupil, reflect the highest honour upon both. His *Archæological Dictionary* will be a lasting monument of his erudition; as will also (amongst his friends) several unpublished poetical and other sprightly productions, of no ordinary merit. Thus adorned with very eminent classical and literary attainments, as well as with the most brilliant wit, which in him possessed that very rare and admirable quality, that, though it delighted everybody, it hurt nobody, together with a benevolence of disposition, and the most engaging sociability of manners, his friendship was courted and cultivated by all the respectability of the county."

publicly to erect a statue after his death to the memory of his preceptor." The pupils of Mr. Wilson cherished a similar feeling of piety towards him as their revered preceptor, and as a record of the virtues of the dead and of the gratitude of the living, on the 30th June 1813, at a meeting held at Preston of gentlemen educated by him at Clitheroe,¹ the Rev. Thomas Moss M.A. Vicar of Walton-on-the-Hill in the chair, it was resolved that a monument should be erected by his pupils to his memory in Clitheroe Church and also a marble tablet in the Parish Church of Bolton, within which he was buried, "as permanent marks of the high estimation in which his public character and

¹ The following gentlemen were at the meeting, and each subscribed £5 5s. :

Rev. Thomas Moss.	Septimus Gorst Esq.
Rev. Henry Wigglesworth.	Edward Pedder Esq.,
Rev. William Barton.	Riding's Farm.
Rev. Robert Harris.	Townley Rigby Shaw Esq.
Rev. J. Whalley Master.	Dr. William St. Clare.
Rev. Edward Master.	Mr. Blanchard.
Rev. Thomas Jackson.	Mr. Chew.
Peter Patten Esq. M.P.	Mr. Parr.
Sir J. W. S. Gardiner Bart.	Mr. James Hargreaves.
T. Lister Parker Esq.	Mr. Edmund Mollineux.
Le Gendre Starkie Esq.	Mr. James Mollineux.
Samuel Staniforth Esq.	Mr. James Pedder.
William Feilden Esq.	Mr. Thomas Carr.
Edward Gorst Esq.	Mr. Henry Vernon.
William Cross Esq.	Mr. Forshaw.
T. S. Shuttleworth Esq.	Mr. John Hargreaves.
William Whalley Esq.	Mr. Alexander St. Clare.
John Gorst Esq.	Mr. Carr.



A. X. Ω.
THOME WILSON, S. T. B.

THOMAS WILSON, S. T. B. obiit die 10. Julii 1710. ætatis 62.

Obiit die 10. Julii 1710. ætatis 62.

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private virtues were held by them, in grateful remembrance of the benefits which they received from him as a teacher, and in testimony of their deep regret for the loss of one who, by the charms of his conversation, the simplicity of his manners and the warmth of his friendship, bound to himself, by the closest ties of affection, every one to whom he had previously imparted the blessings of education."

The subscription, limited to five guineas, was confined to gentlemen who had been Mr. Wilson's pupils. It seems, however, that at least one old personal friend had pressed forward, and with sympathetic feelings had urged his claim to the privilege of being a contributor, and that the claim was allowed. This was Mr. Wiglesworth, the Rector of Slaidburn. The Rev. Dr. Whitaker, "the intimate and highly valued friend of Mr. Wilson," was requested to write a Latin inscription for the monument, and the thanks of the meeting were given to Thomas Lister Parker Esq. for having most obligingly procured two designs for a monument from Mr. Westmacott.

In 1814 a marble monument, executed by Westmacott, was erected in Clitheroe Church with a graceful medallion of Mr. Wilson, and on a tablet the annexed inscription :

A . X . Ω

THOMÆ WILSON, S. T. B.

Ecclesiæ de Cloughton Rectori

Sacellorum de Clitheroe de Downham Ministro,

Et in vicino Gymnasio

Per annos ferme duo de quadraginta

Literarum humaniorum Magistro
 Absque fuco aut fastu erudito
 Juventuti sine plagis regendæ nato
 Et inter docendum male dicere aut sævire nescio
 (Voce, vultu, indole placidissimis)
 Qui, plurimis in Ecclesiam inque R. P. discipulis emissis
 Neminem non sibi sodalem allexerat,
 Nemine non usus est amico,
 Ab iisdem undequaque congregatis
 Grato quotannis exceptus convivio
 (Heu ! nunquam redituro)
 Convictor ipse jucundissimus,
 Sermone compto, faceto, verborum lusibus seu scintillulis nitenti,
 Innocuo tamen, comi, pio.
 Annos nato LXV. denato
 V non. Mart. A.D. MDCCCXIII.
 Sepulto Boltonæ juxta Bowland,
 Prope conjugem præreptam.
 Cenotaphium ubi vivus floruerat,
 L.L.M.P.P.
 Discipuli.¹

Dr. Whitaker, writing from the Holme on the 21st of November 1814 to William Carr of Blackburn Esq. (the treasurer of the subscription fund), observes :

¹ The marble monument in the chancel of Bolton Church was executed by Webster of Kendal ; the inscription, with a few necessary verbal alterations, being the same in both. It was not erected until 1831, at a cost of about £55, being the balance (with the accretions of interest) after defraying the cost of the monument in Clitheroe Church. Mr. Carr, whose uninterrupted regard for his old friend was so deeply impressed upon his heart that it was only effaced by death, had the mournful satisfaction of superintending the erection of the tablet. Mr. Wilson's age is given incorrectly on both these sepulchral memorials. He was in his 67th year.

“I am sorry that it will not be in my power to attend the erection of Mr. Wilson’s monument to-morrow; perhaps it may not be inconvenient to Mr. Barton, who was with me when the site was agreed upon. The situation was on the south side of the communion table, directly opposite to the monument of Mr. Serjeant Aspinall, and, as far as I recollect, the bottom of the marble was intended to be about six feet from the ground. I have no fear of inaccuracies, as I very lately corrected a *fac-simile* of the inscription.”

It is somewhat remarkable, notwithstanding these precise statements, that Dr. Whitaker in 1818 refers to the monument as “about to be erected.”¹ He probably had in view the Bolton tablet.

Such was Mr. Wilson — a man of more than respectable scholarship, of many high qualities and estimable faculties, who obtained celebrity if not fame, and who left behind him a blameless and unsullied character. He was not a strong party man either in religion or politics, and his neutrality occasionally involved him both in deserved and undeserved censure. His personal popularity throughout life was unimpaired, and it was not unmerited. His genial manners, his copious fund of anecdote and talent for lively conversation, his social habits, his cheerful disposition and happy temper, all procured him friends and retained them. He possessed the pleasant and rare faculty of attaching not only his pupils to him but also young persons generally. I have been told by a lady who met him once in early life at Mr. Tempest’s of Broughton, that she has never forgotten

¹ See *History of Whalley*, p. 285.

his pleasing and gentle manner towards her — she a timid and reserved girl, and he “the observed of all observers.” Experience had taught him to discriminate the varieties of character, and he probably discerned in the shy and retiring girl, at that time the head of a literary family in Craven, the germs of those various intellectual talents and elegant accomplishments which have since distinguished her. He was always ready to amuse and willing to be amused; and whilst there was great distinctness and original force in his own character, he loved wit and a playful imagination in others. His friends admit that his great infirmity was verbal punning, word catching, and a ludicrous dwelling on syllables, which often set the table on a roar. This spirit ruled him like a tyrant, gave a tone to his thoughts, hampered his eloquence, and it may be lowered his decorous gravity as a clergyman, but, I believe never, except in one instance, severed his friendships.

In his character of “the good schoolmaster,” Dr. Fuller observes that many scholars have transmitted the memory of their schoolmasters to posterity, who, otherwise in obscurity, had been forgotten; a statement continually verified, although not in the case of Mr. Wilson, whose fair literary labours ought to rescue his name from oblivion, and whose success as a teacher is abundantly proved not only by the number of his pupils¹ but also by their advancement in after life.

¹ To the distinguished names of his pupils scattered throughout this volume, and who will always be regarded as ornaments of Clitheroe School,

“Who,” asks Fuller, “had ever heard of R. Bond in Lancashire but for the breeding of learned Ascham his scholar, or of Hargreaves in Burnley school, in the same county, but because he was the first [who] did teach worthy Dr. Whitaker?” Bond and Hargreaves have obtained a niche in the temple of fame on account of each having made one distinguished scholar, and in every other respect their names have irretrievably perished; but Wilson’s name as a scholar, a poet, a wit, and an eminent schoolmaster will long continue verdant in Lancashire; “for God,” to adopt the quaint language of the same incomparable old writer, “did mould him for a schoolmaster’s life, he undertaking it with desire and delight, and discharging it with dexterity and happy success.”

A portrait of Mr. Wilson, of which the annexed engraving has been made at the expense of some of his surviving pupils, through the friendly and ready assistance of Dixon Robinson of Clitheroe Castle, Esq., himself one of the number, was painted by J. Allen R.A. for Samuel Staniforth Esq. and was presented to Mr. Robinson by the Rev.

a long roll might be added. It would, however, be unjust to Mr. Wilson’s memory not to inscribe on this roll the names of Admiral Master; Robert Baynes Armstrong Esq. M.P., Fellow of St. John’s College, Cambridge, and Recorder of Manchester; Oliver Hargreave Esq. M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, of Abbots Langley, Herts; William Robinson Esq., Banker of Settle; James Clarke Esq., Recorder of Liverpool; Joseph Seaton Aspden Esq., Seal-keeper of the County Palatine; Samuel Yate Benyon Esq., Vice-chancellor of the County Palatine; and the Right Rev. William Higgin D.D., Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.

Thomas Staniforth. The artist has been successful in obtaining a good likeness in repose, although the animated expression of countenance which often characterised Mr. Wilson's conversational vagaries has not been secured; and the rubicund, comely looking presence is probably better depicted and more clearly developed on canvass than by the graver's art. During the latter part of his life a portrait of Mr. Wilson, wearing spectacles, from a painting by Allen was engraved by W. Ward, engraver extraordinary to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and to the Duke of York. It varies in some minute and unimportant particulars from the picture here given. He is represented in full canonicals, wearing his ordinary week-day wig; and yet he always solemnized the Sunday by one of more dignified form, "bushy, with frizzled hair implicit," not collected into clubs or cylindrical curls, just as a judge's head-gear now differs from a common bar wig.

There is also a lithographed portrait of Mr. Wilson, of little merit, probably from a painting by Monsell.

A caricature of him by his friend Francis Hawkesworth of Farnley Esq. in pen and ink (in my possession) is said, with unhesitating confidence, to be a vigorous likeness. He is seated in a chair, with his legs crossed, in top riding boots, wearing his spectacles and week-day wig. The eloquent eye, compressed lips, facetious expression and turned up nose (in profile) are said to embody an unmistakeable reality. He just looks as he did, said an old surviving

friend, when Major Clarke once complained, in his presence, with Juvenal :

“E'en wit's a burden when it talks too long.”

TO WILLIAM THOMAS CARR of the Temple Esq., to the Rev. THOMAS STANIFORTH M.A. Rector of Bolton, and to THOMAS LISTER PARKER Esq. the Chetham Society are indebted for the MS. Poems and Correspondence of Mr. Wilson; and to THOMAS BATTY ADDISON Esq., DIXON ROBINSON Esq., the Rev. R. N. WHITAKER M.A. Vicar of Whalley, and to other friends, I have to express my grateful acknowledgments for much valuable biographical information.

F. R. R.

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ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page ix. *For* "Mr. Assheton," *read* Mr. Aspinall.

Page xii. Note 1. *For* Worstorn, *read* Worston.

Page 16, Note. *For* "1775," *read* 1780.

Page 42, Note 8. This statement has been confirmed. Mr. Wilson's pupil was Henry Tarleton, fourth and youngest son of Thomas Tarleton of Clitheroe and Bolesworth Castle in Cheshire Esq., by Mary, daughter and coheirress of Laurence Robinson of Clitheroe Castle Esq. He was appointed Cornet in the 1st Dragoon Guards in 1804, Lieutenant in the 21st Dragoons 1805, Captain in the 4th Garrison Battalion 1808, in the 7th Foot 1810; acted in that year as Aid-de-camp to his uncle, Sir Banastre Tarleton Bart., on the staff of the Severn district; was promoted to a Majority of the 60th Foot 1814, and to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1817. He died in Cheshire in February 1829, aged 47.

Page 61, Note 7. *For* "brother," *read* father.

Page 125, line 23. *Dele* n.

Page 133, Note 1. *For* 1809, *read* 1813.

Page 147, Note 1. Baron Parke, now Lord Wensleydale.

Page 166, Note 1. *Dele* the comma after tulit, and place it after institui.

Page 168, line 19. *For* "tenebrosque," *read* tenebrasque.

Page 169, line 20. *For* gratiæ, *read* grati.

Page 183, line 16. The Rev. Giles Haworth Peel, second son of Jonathan Peel of Accrington House Esq., and Mr. Wilson's Curate at Downham.

Page 184, Note. *For* 1708, *read* 1788.

Page 201, Note 1. The Rev. J. F. Parker succeeded Mr. Smith at Waddington, and his brother, the Rev. William Parker, was appointed to Almondbury. The latter nomination is dated in the Minute Book of the Governors 24 June 1809, and is signed by Thomas Parker, Thomas Lister Parker, William Assheton and J. Aspinall, Esquires, four of the Governors. Colonel Clayton and Josias Robinson Esq., the other two Governors, being Mr. Wilson's friends, declined to concur in the nomination.

POETICAL SPECIMENS.

POETICAL SPECIMENS.

I. — CLITHEROE.

A TOWN of no commerce, but well represented;
A place of much bustle, but little frequented;
A place of no riches, but very much pride;
A place of ill fame, but by no means belied;
A place full of tailors, without e'er a coat,
And burgesses many without e'er a vote.
A pretty large town, but without a good street;
A pretty good shambles, but very bad meat;
A poor looking church, with a musical steeple;
Very poor looking houses, but fat-looking people;
All saints upon Sundays, but all the week sinners,
Excessive keen stomachs, but very poor dinners.
The aldermen boast of their judgment in jellies,
And are all very great in their heads and their bellies.
A quick-sighted people, but dull in discerning;
A very good school, with a small share of learning;
A nest of attorneys, without any law,
And parsons that practise much more than they know.
A place where the number of doctors increases,
Which seems the most dreadful of all their diseases.

II. — THE FINE GENTLEMAN.

SPOKEN BEFORE THE GOVERNORS OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL, JUNE 24TH, 1779,
BY MR. NEWTON.

Would you make a fine gentleman truly complete?
Attend to what follows — for here's the receipt.

After learning his letters at home, the next course
Is to give him a taste for a dog or a horse,
And when he is taught to be *pert*, that is, smart,
And got Mother Goose's quaint fables by heart,
To Eton or Westminster let him repair
To inhale the infection that floats in that air,
To acquire the due bronze that must harden the faces
Of such as pay court to the Chesterfield Graces —
(Those Graces by men of great wisdom abhorr'd
As practised and taught by a graceless old Lord.)
Whilst his parents think proper their son should stay there,
Well brush'd be his teeth, and well powder'd his hair,
But a boor, a rank boor will he be if he fails
In segments of circles to pare all his nails.
With my lord let him walk, be acquainted with dukes,
And set at defiance his master's rebukes;
Whate'er is allow'd, his expence should exceed it;
Though friends should remonstrate he ought not to heed it;
And as to the duty required in the school,
If 'tis done by himself, from that hour he's a fool.

When to college he comes be't his care to get mellow,
Each book to despise, nor submit to a Fellow;
To talk with contempt of all statutes and laws,
Absent from the churches or sleep when he goes,

Find fault with his commons and loathe a plain diet,
 Reform all their cook'ry or kick up a riot,
 Contemn all philosophy, d—— mathematics,
 Curse all their theology, logic, and statics,
 Tear the leaves from each Greek and each d—— Latin poet,
 Break windows, kick waiters, be wicked and show it,
 All bus'ness of college perform by a proxy
 But kicking the jyps and caressing his doxy.

In town thus instructed he'll next show his face ;
 With art let him smile, let him ogle with grace,
 Let dress and address be his ultimate care,
 Well clothed be his person, engaging his air ;
 Each man let him value by title and pence,
 Though their minds be a blank without wit, without sense ;
 On dukes let him hang and with duchesses dance,
 And finish the whole with a journey to France,
 Taste its wines, see its towns, a few friends, a few spaws,
 But remain unacquainted with customs and laws ;
 Improve all his vices and finish his graces,
 And get an assortment of grins and grimaces,
 French shrugs and French bows and French froth and French words,
 The names of French villas, French w—— and French lords,
 In all things resembling the French macaronis,
 In whose gentle bodies you'd swear not a bone is ;
 Let him talk of intrigues, and of duels he's fought,
 How he cut for some countess a marquess's throat ;
 Let him know the best inns, the best cooks, the best road,
 For that's the advantage of going abroad.

Now home let him come, and no doubt he will please
 With French phrases, French dresses, French cooks, French disease.
 When at home let him dance, show his teeth, wear a sword,
 Let him prate like a parrot and drink like a lord ;
 Let his style be superb whate'er the expence,
 'Twill all be the same in a hundred years hence.

In splendour and *ton* let him show what is life,
Spend his fortune at once, then be yok'd to a wife
With portion enough to rub off an old score
And pay the expenses of keeping a w——.
Let him ever, when married, be lumpish and dull
As a poor melancholic when Luna's at full ;
To reading unus'd and a stranger to thinking,
Let him kill the dull moments by eating and drinking ;
Let him use his rose-water, snuff, essence, perfume,
And call in sensation in sentiment's room ;
Let his person be all he bestows the least care on,
And his head fit for nothing but dressing his hair on.
If 'tis fair, let him ride ; if rainy, sit mute
And grunt in his chair, like a two legged brute.
By turns let him love and be weary of life,
By turns be a slave or bashaw to his wife,
Not unlike a machine that depends altogether
For motion or rest on the turns of the weather.

To make a fine gentleman these are the rules,
Which equally answer for making of fools.
Such *things* have their uses though, wit they are food for ;
Or make them barometers, this they'll be good for ;
Or, since they have travell'd at home and abroad,
They'll serve us for guide posts to point out the road.

III. — A MONODY.

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the GOD of my salvation. — *Habak.* iii. 17, 18.

SUCH were the hopes that Israel's prophet fir'd;
By Faith dictated and by Truth inspir'd,
Sustained by GOD and innocence alone,
Through sorrows blind his rapture brighter shone:
Thus when terrestrial comforts pass away,
Untimely perish, or, mature, decay,
Affliction thus should raise her mournful eyes
And read the gracious mandates of the skies;
Taught not to murmur, question or repine,
But fix her anchor in a rock divine.
To bid the vainer dreams of fancy cease,
Acquaint thyself with GOD and be at peace;
Own though His arrows sorely pierce the breast,
They point benignant to the realms of rest.
O think what paths each saint and martyr trod,
What griefs and torments led them to their GOD;
Taught hence, afflicted virtue will adore
What pride, what reason vainly would explore;
This sacred truth with prostrate homage own,
"Reasoning is vain but Heav'n is just alone."
Yet tears will flow — nor Heav'n the tear reproves,
Sacred to virtues Heav'n's own Eye approves,
And though his love and fondest pray'r deny,
Bids all lament, when virtue's offspring die.
Such once was he, whose loss we still deplore,
Such tears were shed when *Roundell* was no more.

See the chaste loves recline their languid head,
 Scatter their bridal roses o'er the dead !
 Ere their young wings had fanned its infant fires
 The nuptial torch in funeral gloom expires !
 The Spring's fair chaplets now to cypress turn,
 Circling their pensive honours round his urn !
 O early lost ! by every voice approved,
 (By man respected and by Heav'n below'd,)
 " Good without noise " — of taste and thought refin'd,
 " Lover of peace and friend of human kind ! "
 Lost but on earth — the chequer'd scene of pains,
 For thou art gone where bliss immortal reigns ;
 Early hast gain'd that quiet friendly shore ;
 Taught us the way to smooth the passage o'er :
 That not untimely youthful virtue dies,
 For Heav'n matures its fav'rites for the skies
 Not by their years, but deeds, whose living pow'r
 Can gild the latest and the darkest hour.

O may these rites, this verse availing be
 To soothe the living, though they move not thee !
 Yet sacred to thy name shall flow the lay,
 Nor worth like thine in silence pass away ;
 The lay sincere thy voice would not disown,
 The grateful tribute of a Muse unknown.

And thou, whose sorrows, deep and silent, flow —
 That genuine language of the heart in woe —
 Once the lov'd partner of his heart alone,
 O may the Muse's sadness soothe thine own !
 What art thou, Life, unless some brighter sky
 Lie far beyond, where virtue ne'er can die ?
 What is thy dream of happiness we prize
 But a fair blossom that expands and dies ?
 Thy blushing honours what but splendid toys,
 One narrow circle of ideal joys,

Unless some bright reversion gild the scene,
 Where life ne'er fades nor clouds can intervene,
 Where hope ne'er sickens, where the cup of joy
 No tears embitter and no deaths destroy?
 There, only there, Affliction finds her stay,
 Looks up, reviving, to the realms of day,
 Sees Death divested of his awful frown,
 Sees future immortality her own,
 Sees, by the eye of Faith, her prospects bloom
 Beyond the dreary horrors of the tomb.

Thus though the lov'd, the virtuous we deplore,
 Not lost are they that early go before.
 Yet a few years, Life's airy visions past,
 And kindred spirits shall unite at last.
 The friend belov'd we mourn'd on earth as lost
 Shall greet us, landing on a happier coast,
 Guide the free spirit through the blaze of day,
 Lost in the glories of the eternal ray,
 Show the glad stranger to the heav'nly throng,
 Rapt in their golden lyres and glowing song:
 There both shall join the concert — and adore
 That God who parted — to divide no more;
 Whose sovereign balm the wounded spirit cures
 That bows submissive and with hope endures;
 Whose arm can guide *thee* to the ports of ease
 "Through ways of comfort and through paths of peace."

Richard Roundell of Marton in Craven Esq. was born in 1740, succeeded his father in 1770, and died unmarried Feb. 11, 1772, when the estates passed to his brother the Rev. William Roundell M.A. Fellow of Magdalene College, Oxford, father of the present representative of the family. The poem obviously alludes to Mr. Roundell's near approaching marriage with Miss Lister of Gisburn Park, (sister of Thomas first Lord Ribblesdale and afterwards the wife of Mr. Parker of Browsholme), which was only prevented by his sudden death. Dr. Whitaker gives a highly picturesque description of Gledstone House, begun in the lifetime of Richard Roundell Esq. and finished by his successor, and of the surrounding scenery which he characterizes as an epitome of the whole of Craven. — *Hist. Craven*, p. 71.

IV. — THE [AMERICAN] WAR.

A FRAGMENT.

THE people find their money spent,
But scarcely know which way it went,
Or what's the minister's intent
And view, sir ;

But, if you'll listen, I can tell;
We meant our Colonies to quell,
And France and Spain to thrash right well;
'Tis true, sir !

And should our projects seem in vain,
Suspend your censures, don't complain,
The merits weigh of each campaign
How glorious !

We trusted first that General Gage
Our infant rebel war would wage,
And make the British lion rage
Victorious ;

But Gage was found so very slow,
That Howe had orders next to go
And strike the long expected blow,
And beat 'em.

The British army, now on fire,
To meet their Yankee foes desire,
And swore, so desp'rate was their ire,
They'd eat 'em !

Our conquests thus I've brought to view,
And how our foe we did subdue;
Our triumphs next I will to you
Discover.

Our fowling pieces were prepar'd,
On stakes were huge tar barrels rear'd,
And nought but guns and bells were heard
All over;

The elders sat up very late
To drink for joy, make squibs and prate,
Each other to congratulate
And flatter;

In droves the rabble join the fun,
In one hand clubs, in t'other stone,
Those windows which had candles none
To batter.

Thus after all, it must be said,
In conquest we've been richly paid,
And have such triumphs merited
As please one;

And had our cong'rors liv'd at Rome,
They would have been, as I presume,
With farthing candles lighted home,
With reason.

But, lo! the season made them fret,
A fighting day they could not get,
It was such execrable, wet,
Raw weather:

For as to fighting who would do't
When 'twas so dirty under foot;
The foes were strong, and kept, to boot,
Together.

The war, however, was begun,
To leave it thus was but to run,
And something must at last be done
To th' wretches :

With much éclât we seiz'd a post;
But, lo! before we'd time to boast,
Our hopes were gone, and Prescott lost
His breeches.

But Gen'ral Burgoyne's still in store,
Our honour he'd retrieve — nay more,
The war he'd finish, and he swore
Like thunder :

His march begun he issued threats,
And on his side ran all the bets;
But he — trepann'd by General Gates,
Knocks under.

Thus time and money being spent,
France join'd our foes, and succours sent,
As if she speedy ruin meant
For Britain.

A project now that could not fail,
A scheme that must of course prevail,
And make Monsieur his stars bewail,
Was hit on.

This noble scheme to execute
A mighty fleet was fitted out,
And Keppel was the man to do't —
Or no man ;

Equipp'd and mann'd, away he goes
To be reveng'd on Britain's foes,
And prove himself in Britain's cause
A Roman.

Onward he sail'd with full intent
To pay the French a compliment,
And drub them to their heart's content ;
But mark, sir !

The French their coming understood,
And form'd their line upon the flood,
Where they their party did make good
Till dark, sir.

Keppel, lest jokes should go too far,
And he the Gallic ships should mar,
Allow'd them, like a gen'rous tar,
To go, sir.

Brave Hardy next attempts the main,
To conquer France and humble Spain ;
He sail'd — and then came home again —
Too slow, sir !

V. — ON THE MARRIAGE OF JOHN PARKER
OF BROWSHOLME ESQ.

AN ALLEGORICAL COMPLIMENT.

All Heaven
And happy constellations on that hour
Shed their selectest influence.

Milton.

TIR'D of Olympus and its dull parade
Pallas and Venus sought a rural shade,
Stripp'd of the trappings and the pomp of state,
And knock'd familiar at Cleora's gate ;
Admittance found, admir'd her calm retreat,
Furnish'd with taste and elegantly neat :
Hither Cleora from the world had gone
To enjoy dear solitude and muse alone.
With wonder next Cleora they survey'd,
And both with eagerness address'd the maid ;
Each strove with warmest zeal the nymph to gain,
And press'd her much to join their smiling train.
The nymph suspended stood, nor fix'd her choice,
For both she lov'd, nor dar'd to give her voice ;
Then both employ'd their skill and show'd their parts,
One talk'd of love, the other talk'd of arts,
This prais'd her form, and that her prudence prais'd,
'Till both, grown warm, their angry voices rais'd.

Damon, meantime, the glory of the plain,
Lov'd by each nymph and envied by each swain,
This way with Phœbus walk'd and join'd the throng —
Phœbus the patron and the god of song.

Ent'ring the house, each goddess they survey'd
 In loud contention for the blooming maid ;
 Cleora's charms attracted Damon's eye,
 Inspir'd new wishes and drew forth a sigh ;
 With rapture gaz'd the youth, his looks confest
 The silent transport of his glowing breast.
 Says Phœbus — " Here thy thoughts for ever fix,
 " The nymph be thine," says he, and swore by Styx :
 " Agreed," says Pallas, " for 'twill end debate ;"
 " Agreed," says Venus, " for disputes I hate."

This said, that instant gentle Hymen came
 And lights his torch at Cupid's steady flame,
 Then joins their willing hands, while Cupid binds
 In love's soft fetters their consenting minds.

Phœbus now beckon'd to his tuneful Nine
 To hail the nuptials with a strain divine ;
 The Graces who to Venus' train belong
 With smiling sympathy approv'd the song ;
 Then all conspir'd to bless the happy pair,
 And each bestow'd a portion on the fair ;
 The Graces gave her elegance and ease,
 The charms of manner and the power to please ;
 The Muses gave her sentiments refin'd,
 And taste and fancy stamp'd upon her mind.

Whilst thus the happy union all approve,
 These words to Pallas spoke the Queen of Love :
 " We ought," says she, " the fav'rite nymph t' endow,
 " Her body I adorn — her understanding thou."

Accept these lines the Muse presumes to send,
 The gratulations of an humble friend,
 A friend whose sympathy will claim a part
 Of that pure joy which now dilates thy heart,
 A friend who, joining in the public voice,
 Commends, approves, applauds thy happy choice :

E'en stupid dulness might attempt the lay,
Rous'd by the triumphs of this festal day.

What joy now glistens in thy parents' eyes,
What more than transports in their hearts arise ;
With double warmth thou'rt to their bosoms prest,
And in thy happiness themselves are blest.

Sure some kind star with most auspicious ray
Illum'd thy path and pointed out the way,
The way that led to that enchanted place
Where dwells an angel and where smiles each grace,
Where sense and elegance and taste refin'd
Exalt above her sex the female mind,
Conspire her native merits to improve,
And raise her worth above a common love ;
Where wit is temper'd and subdu'd by sense,
Bright without glare and sharp without offence ;
Where peace sits smiling on the pleasing scene,
And harmony composes all within.

Thus blest, my friend, with friendly candour hear
The warmest wishes of a soul sincere.
As Hymen firmly binds your hearts and hands,
May Love still strengthen your connubial bands,
May that pure flame with bright'ning ardour glow,
And yield you all the bliss which mortals know ;
Still may thy dearer self, thy better part,
With hooks of steel be grappled to thy heart ;
May every ruder passion henceforth cease,
By love for ever lull'd to lasting peace ;
May cold indiff'rence, with its chilling frost,
In love's warm sunshine be dissolv'd and lost ;
May strictest virtue o'er your lives preside,
And cautious prudence ev'ry action guide ;
In quest of happiness ne'er may'st thou roam,
But find it perfect in thy peaceful home,

Since when for bliss we've ransack'd all around,
Still 'tis at home or nowhere to be found.

Should secret grief thy inward peace molest,
Repose thy suff'rings in thy partner's breast,
Her sympathy will take the larger share,
Will soothe and soften and dissolve thy care ;
Sinks thy sad soul oppress'd with gloomy pain,
Still may she smile thee into joy again ;
Swells a rude passion in thy lab'ring breast,
Let her mild accents speak it into rest ;
When threat'ning clouds thy wand'ring paths o'erspread,
And no kind strangers teach thee where to speed,
May she with judgment's mild and steady ray
Direct thy steps and point the better way.

When glad report shall to the world proclaim
The pleasing pledges of your mutual flame,
Still may those seasons welcome eras prove
Of growing pleasure and increasing love ;
And grant thee, Heaven, the happiness to see
A group of children struggling for thy knee,
To see thy soul's best part, with secret joy,
Marking thy features in each darling boy,
Whilst thou, with looks of love, shall fondly trace
Maternal traits in ev'ry female face.
What unknown pleasures will these scenes impart,
What silent raptures will expand the heart !
And to your loves should they preserve their claims,
Should calm delight still dwell upon their names,
Then these dear pledges in the eve of life
Will more endear the husband and the wife.

May Time thus fly with peace upon his wings,
While ev'ry passing hour new blessings brings ;
And when revolving years begin to shed
The silver hairs of age upon thy head,

Still may thy heart, a well-contented guest,
 Reside with pleasure in her faithful breast;
 And when with peace through life's career you've run,
 In tranquil brightness set your ev'ning sun,
 Leaving a lustre which may ever prove
 The mutual bliss that flows from mutual love.

John Parker was the only son of Edward Parker of Browsholme Esq., by his wife Barbara, daughter and coheirress of Sir William Fleming of Rydal Hall in the county of Westmoreland Bart. He was some time Fellow Commoner of Christ College, Cambridge, Hereditary Bow Bearer of the Forest of Bowland in the Duchy of Lancaster, (West Riding of the county of York,) and in the Commission of the Peace for Yorkshire and Lancashire. In 1775 he was M.P. for Clitheroe, and in 1778 married Beatrix, daughter of Thomas Lister of Gisburn Park Esq., M.P., the sister of the first Baron Ribblesdale. Mr. Parker died in 1797.

VI. — VERSES WRITTEN AT BROWSHOLME HALL
 ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, AND PRESENTED
 TO JOHN PARKER ESQ.

ACCEPT, my dear Parker, these wishes sincere,
 That health, peace, and bliss may be yours through the year;
 And that each passing month in its course may improve
 The heartfelt endearments of conjugal love.

May the first month, though fraught with tempestuous weather,
 Be received as a hint to keep closely together,
 That in spite of the cold and the tempests that blow,
 The warmth of your hearts the chill winter may thaw.

In the month that succeeds, though the north wind prevail,
 Though the earth's cloth'd in snow, or is batter'd with hail,
 Let Spring's gentle empire your bosom control,
 And Love's blandest zephyrs still breathe o'er your soul.

When MARCH makes his entrance, observe how awhile
He wears a stern frown, but retires with a smile ;
Take this as an emblem of Hymen's own fetter,
Which grows upon wearing still better and better.

When APRIL's arriv'd — that soft season of love,
And spring teems with verdure in field and in grove,
May your taste from such objects much happiness steal,
And sympathy teach you new pleasures to feel !

When Love sits full fledg'd on the bosom of MAY,
When the birds tell their passion and sing on each spray,
May your souls be prepared to join the glad throng,
And your hearts beat with rapture to chorus the song !

When JUNE all around shall have shed a perfume,
And the fields and the gardens are dress'd in full bloom,
May your hearts, unassaulted with sorrow and care,
Of the season's rich pleasures receive a full share !

When the beauties of June in JULY shall decay,
Remember that beauty but charms for a day,
And prudently seek, what you surely may find,
The delicate joys that result from the mind.

When harvest in AUGUST begins to appear,
The month that adorns and that crowns the full year,
A jubilee month to your hopes may it prove,
The month that returns you the harvest of love !

When the sun in SEPTEMBER has pass'd o'er the line,
When the nights shall increase and the days shall decline,
May your happiness still unabated remain,
And the warmth of affection its solstice maintain !

When gloomy OCTOBER, pursu'd by a throng
Of gout, rheums, and asthmas, comes hobbling along,
May you be preserv'd from the pow'r of disease,
And remain unmolested by harpies like these !

In languid NOVEMBER, which always has been
The month of bad-spirits, ill-temper and spleen,
Against such foul fiends have recourse to the fair,
And seek in your heart the true opiate of care.

Though DECEMBER with storms all around you shall roar,
Be happy within, keep the wolf from your door ;
Let winter rage on, and despise his rude howl,
Let passion's loud tumults ne'er ruffle your soul.

Thus may weeks, months and years, in real happiness pass,
And Time gently shake all your sands from his glass !

VII.—ON THE BIRTH OF THOMAS LISTER PARKER,
OF BROWSHOLME.

CALM was the day, the face of nature bright,
When thou, sweet babe ! didst first behold the light ;
Be this auspicious of a placid life,
And soul unruffled with internal strife.
Sleep on, blest babe ! and may no blasts control
The equal tenor of thy guiltless soul ;
May Nature, now benignant, form the plan
Of virtues destin'd to adorn the man,
And careful culture in due time draw forth
Thy moral beauties and unfold thy worth ;
Just as we've often seen the infant rose
Wrapt in the bud its beauteous form repose,
But, warm'd by Phœbus' fost'ring rays, behold
The leaves expand and all its charms unfold.
Long may'st thou live, and honours round thee spread,
And virtues blossom on thy youthful head !
Nurse him, ye fost'ring dews, ye genial rays,
Into fair fame, full health, and length of days.
Thus art thou launch'd upon a dang'rous sea,
Where scarce the pilots can the dangers flee ;
A sea where syrens tempt th' unwary mind
And all its pow'rs in witchcraft strive to bind,

Where Circe's cup the manly sense disarms,
And reason falls a victim to her charms ;
A sea where shoals lie near the tempting land,
With swallowing whirlpools und engulfing sand.
But, oh ! what perils wait thy heedless youth
To blight thy virtues in the hour of growth !
Here hissing Envy points her venom'd stings
And aims at Merit as aloft it springs ;
There Interest unperceiv'd still turns the scale,
And Self, rank self, each rising thought assails ;
Here Treach'ry spreads abroad her guileful snares,
And Flattery's face the garb of Friendship wears ;
There Unbelief stalks on with giant strides,
Religion mocks — Omnipotence derides,
And Blasphemy attends, with wit's rash aid,
To shock that reason which it can't persuade ;
Here Civil Discord shakes a sinking land,
And mad Ambition lights the flaming brand ;
Here Bribery lives and shows the glitt'ring gold,
The price for which e'en Britons oft are sold ;
There creeping Slander stabs you by surprise,
Whilst Virtue, disregarded, droops and dies !
Unhurt through all these perils may'st thou steer,
And urge with steady sail thy bold career ;
Before thy eyes may sacred Truth display
The light of Virtue and Religion's way,
May Prudence guide the gale that wafts thee o'er,
And angels greet thee on the blissful shore !

Thus Life's a dang'rous and important state,
Which must for ever fix and seal thy fate ;
Eternity's at stake, and Life's the throw
Which brings thee blessings or confirms thy woe.
Know, too, what pow'rs are to thy trust consign'd,
The pow'rs to bless or rack thy parents' mind,

'Tis thine a comfort or a curse to give,
To make them welcome death or wish to live,
From various pangs their feeling hearts to save,
Or bow them down with sorrow to the grave.
For know, for thee they other hopes resign,
And all their comforts are involv'd in thine,
With thy complaints they fondly sympathise,
Grieve all thy griefs and feel thy infant cries ;
For *their* sakes, then, let virtue claim thy cares,
Guard thine own life and thou shalt comfort theirs,
And when they're summon'd to resign their breath
The thoughts of thee shall smooth the bed of death.
Long may'st thou live such blessings to bestow,
And make thy parents' hearts with joy o'erflow ;
Long may'st thou live to recompense their cares,
Answer their wishes and fulfil their prayers ;
Long may'st thou live, the Bard with fervour prays,
The hopeful blossom of succeeding days !

Thomas Lister Parker, son and heir of John Parker of Browsholme Esq., M.P., was born 27th September 1779. He was educated by Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe, and afterwards entered of Christ College Cambridge, succeeded his father in 1797 as Hereditary Bow Bearer of Bowland, elected F.S.A. May 14th 1801, afterwards F.R.S., &c. He published a "Description of Browsholme Hall in the West Riding of the County of York; and of the Parish of Waddington in the same County: also a Collection of Letters from original Manuscripts in the reigns of Charles I. and II. and James II., in the possession of Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme Hall Esq." 4to, pp. 130, 1815. This volume is illustrated with twenty spirited etchings from well-finished sketches, and was printed for private circulation, by the munificent and highly respected author, who is still living.

VIII.—THE CLITHEROE BURGESSES.

ONE night as the burgesses sat round their bowl,
Indulging with freedom the flow of the soul,
Wit, mirth, and good humour went cheerfully round,
And the cares of the day in the liquor were drown'd,
O'er each jolly face much composure was spread,
And smoke in thick volumes curl'd over each head.
The demon of Discord, chagrin'd at their joy,
From Tartarus posted their peace to annoy;
She sat in a corner conceal'd from their sight,
Swell'd nearly to bursting with rancour and spite.
They talk'd and they laugh'd till the jorum was dry,
And, *nem. con.*, were voting a further supply,
When, unseen, to the bar the dread monster had stole
And temper'd with horrid ingredients the bowl:
She pour'd in a spirit from Pluto's own brew'ry,
'Twas far above proof and distill'd by a Fury;
She squeez'd a large lemon, from Tartarus brought,
Whose pulp with an acid infernal was fraught,
'Twas the same which incited the Greeks to destroy
The seat of old Priam, the city of Troy;
With the stem of a wolfsbane she stirr'd up the potion,
Which hiss'd, foam'd, and spurted with dreadful commotion.
When brought to the table, the company ask
If the rum had not got a strong smack of the cask?
They drank it, and found in the morning it spread
Odd fancies, vertigos, and whims through the head;
Their brains were affected, their mem'ries derang'd,
Their minds were perverted, their sentiments chang'd;
The men were all monsters and villains, they swore,
Whose merits they'd honour'd the ev'ning before;

So dim grew their eyes that they scarcely could know
 A foe from a friend or a friend from a foe.
 They met their old cronies with quite a new face,
 And their enemies hugg'd with a hearty embrace ;
 When a townsman approach'd then depress'd was their jaw,
 If a stranger advanc'd they would stretch out a paw ;
 Of words the effect was so great that a name
 Their wrath would extinguish or kindle a flame ;
 Their threats at a syllable swell'd up with ire,
 Or the veins of their necks became small as a wire ;
 So strong their disorder that, e'en in the street,
 They'd bite, breathe or slaver whoe'er they might meet !

Such a daemon is Discord wherever it reigns ;
 The judgment it warps and confuses the brains,
 It turns into venom the wholesomest food,
 And in time is diffused through the whole mass of blood ;
 The habit is chang'd if it rages awhile,
 The humours corrupted and turn'd into bile,
 No med'cines can reach it, no regimen's good
 But purging, confinement, and letting of blood.

IX. — THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE SCHOLARS OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL.

By my schoolfellows urg'd, with all proper submission,
 I am come to present a most humble petition,
 Which with case you can grant, so we hope you'll befriend us,
 And all your assistance most cheerfully lend us.
 The favour we sue for is small you will own,
 Which is — “that the school you'll consent to pull down !”
 The school — that dull prison — where, daily confined,
 Our bodies are hamper'd for sake of the mind.

Though air and free exercise, doctors will tell us,
Are chiefly requir'd to make us strong fellows,
Here fix'd to our benches we're chain'd to the oar,
Like galley slaves labour but ne'er come on shore,
And masters stand o'er us with menacing frown,
With rods heav'd above us, in act to come down.
At distance from home, in a barbarous land,
We see not a friend we can shake by the hand ;
We're forc'd from our fathers and torn from our mothers,
A thought which our nature recoils at and shudders.
Should our health be impair'd 'tis not to be wonder'd,
Confin'd as we are 'midst the stench of an hundred ;
What though our whole number together is but a
Small handful compar'd to what died at Calcutta,
Yet still 'tis enough to awaken our fears,
If you please to reflect we're imprison'd for years.
Here in Latin bewilder'd we mope all the day,
Debarr'd from all exercise, hindered from play,
Forget our own language in learning to speak
That lingo of pot hooks and ladles — the Greek ;
The Greek — that cashew-nut — whose shell most infernal
Destroys all our grinders, and poisons the kernel.
Besides, what we learn is a strange sort of stuff,
How Jove could gallant it and Juno could puff !
Your Ovids and Virgils and Homers are pagan,
Their religion was gross as the worship of Dagon.
And pray of what use can this learning be to us,
Whose hardships you've heard are enough to undo us ?
For should our keen appetites prompt us to eat,
Will butchers take learning in barter for meat ?
When seiz'd by the gout or when worn by the phthisic,
Will it charm the disorders or pay for our physic ?
When in chat we're distress'd for a word to come pat in,
May we hope for assistance from Greek or from Latin ?

Nay, men of deep learning, wherever we've travell'd,
 We find in discourse the most apt to be gravell'd.
 Nor to fit us for bus'ness does learning conduce,
 And proves in professions of very small use ;
 To physic I'm sure it can make no pretensions,
 Physicians I've seen that ne'er knew their declensions ;
 And as for the law it performs all its work,
 Without Greek or Latin, by quibble and quirk.
 'Tis the same in the army — the French we must strive
 To kill in plain English, or leave them alive,
 For, arm'd with a musket, we've infinite odds
 'Gainst him who would fight us with quis, quæs and quods ;
 It suits no profession, in short, but a parson,
 And priests, we can see, all the world makes a farce on ;
 Besides, men of wit, men of sense and discerning,
 Will be sensible, witty, and quick without learning,
 And Latin, Greek, Hebrew, are roots that are found
 To flourish the best in the poorest of ground.
 Since at school to no purpose we're plagu'd as you see,
 Demolish the building and set us all free,
 For wretched we are o'er these hics, hæcs and hocs,
 As Hudibras sitting with legs in the stocks.

I'm commissioned, moreover, by country and town,
 T' inforce this request, "that the school be pull'd down ;"
 For the boys make such dreadful consumption of meat
 The natives can scarce get a morsel to eat.
 The gardens are robb'd and the orchards are plunder'd
 By foraging parties that march by the hundred ;
 With insults unnumber'd the people they treat,
 And pigs are molested that walk in the street,
 The hares they destroy and they pluck all the geese,
 The windows they break and sometimes the peace ;
 In short they're a nuisance, for thus say the people,
 So *belles* in the street, and so *bells* in the steeple.

Induc'd by such reasons, so many and strong,
Your goodness, 'tis hop'd, will redress such a wrong,
And determine this building in ruins to lay,
And we, your petitioners, ever will pray,

&c., &c.

The petition was favourably received by the Governors of the school, and its prayer granted. In 1782 the old school was pulled down and a new one built.

X.—WRITTEN IN MR. PARKER'S FIRST FRANK.

AND ADDRESSED TO MISS ELIZABETH WILSON OF DALHAM TOWER,
IN THE COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND.

SEE! the writing is fair! so the business is done,
And my frank manufactory now is begun,
And that fortune may favour the work that I do,
I devote my first cover, dear madam, to you.
May my franks be still ready and willing to aid
The swain in despair and the languishing maid ;
May they faithfully bear, like the Persian dove,
Effusions of friendship and secrets of love ;
When love is the subject may Cupid be post,
And never complain that his labour is lost ;
When the heart's overcharg'd with a load of its grief,
May a frank never fail to give instant relief ;
Should a parent with fear for his child be distress,
May these bring the balms to restore him to rest ;
And should knavery screen itself under the seal,
May the wax be broke open the knave to reveal ;
Should treason or libel or lies be so rude,
Or dare on my franks their bold fronts to obtrude,
May my covers still bear an infallible mark
To detect the base villain that stabs in the dark ;

Should friendship be cool'd by some sudden disgust,
 May a frank be applied the affair to adjust ;
 May my franks ever serve those at odds to set even,
 And such be the virtues deriv'd from St. Stephen !

John Parker of Browsholme Esq. was elected burgess in Parliament for Clitheroe, along with Thomas Lister of Gisburn Park Esq., in 1780. The election took place on the 13th and 14th September. Miss Elizabeth Wilson was the second daughter of Edward Wilson of Dalham Tower Esq., by his wife Dorothy, daughter and coheiress of Sir William Fleming of Rydal Bart., M.P. She was first cousin to John Parker Esq., her imaginary poetical correspondent.

XI.—PROLOGUE TO THE EXERCISES OF THE YEAR 1780 AT CLITHEROE SCHOOL.

SPOKEN BY MR. PONSONBY.

GEMMEN, I come, if not engaged elsewhere,
 To ask you to an entertainment here :
 Our master begs you'll deign to be his guests,
 And hopes each dish is season'd to your tastes.
 You'll find plain sense, dress'd plain as you would wish,
 With sprigs of wit to garnish ev'ry dish ;
 Pot-luck, he thinks, would here be out of question,
 Since this might prove to some of hard digestion ;
 But, for apology, 'tis my design
 To state exactly how each day we dine :

HORACE stands first, like turtle richly dress'd,
 Of flavour high to please the nicest guest ;
 In him is found, as epicures agree,
 Not only calipash but calipee.
 Below is JUVENAL, austere and strong,
 Whose poignant flavour dwells upon the tongue ;

He in the middle stands with Roman pride,
 Like ham grown rusty, though well cured and dried.
 VIRGIL and HOMER at the bottom join
 To make one noble dish — a huge sir-loin ;
 Substantial, strong, and nutritive are these,
 You can't be wrong cut whether side you please,
 They're full of gravy, and they're fine in grain,
 And yet so large 'tis — cut and come again.

ANACREON's tender odes are pretty picking,
 And, on one side, supply the place of chicken ;
 A side dish, too, the comic TERENCE makes,
 And holds the place of veal or mutton steaks,
 High in his flavour, full of attic salt,
 Though rich in goût not luscious to a fault.

Oppos'd stands OVID, like a huge plum-pudding,
 With suet, fruit, and ev'ry spice that's good in ;
 The manly stomach oft his richness cloys,
 But suits, exactly suits, the taste of boys.

MARTIAL stands next, whose epigrams supply
 In form and quality the place of fry ;
 His dish of scraps and tid-bits, fresh and rare,
 Our table fills, and ends the bill of fare.

Old LILLY's Rules, which here are daily read,
 Serve us as hard bak'd rolls and crusts of bread ;
 And AINSWORTH, on the sideboard standing by,
 Cut, crush'd and mangled, is a cold goose-pie.
 Our drink's the bev'rage which the Muses bring
 From the Castalian or Pierian spring ;
 Or, if we hob and nob it whilst we dine,
 HORACE can furnish us with choicest wine.

Thus is our table, still, with plenty stor'd,
 And this the dinner we can best afford ;
 But, if I guess aright from English looks,
 You'll not digest what's dress'd by foreign cooks ;

I therefore tell you that my master's wish is,
 To entertain you with a few made dishes;
 Prepare your stomachs, then, for what we've got,
 The cloth's just laid, and all is piping hot!

Mr. Ponsonby, who died in India unmarried, was a son of Miles Ponsonby of Hale Hall in Cumberland Esq., descended from Sir John Ponsonby, a colonel in Cromwell's army, of Kildalton in the county of Tipperary Knt., by his first wife, Dorothy, daughter of John Brisco of Crofton in the county of Cumberland Esq. By his second wife Sir John was ancestor of the Earls of Besborough.

XII. — THE CONVERSATION.

A HINT FOR A NEW SCHOOL AT CLITHEROE, 1781.

APOLLO one day with the Muses had play'd,
 And was holding a chat in the depth of the glade,
 When the Nine said that Clitheroe, ere it was long,
 Now famous for *lime* should be famous for *song*,
 For some in the place had been us'd for some time
 Their fingers to count, and could hobble in rhyme.
 "I've seen of their works not a few," replied Phœbus,
 "Some trifling acrostics or juvenile rebus."—
 "But soon," said the Muses, "to taste they'd aspire,
 "Write sonnets and essays, and odes for the lyre,
 "If duly assisted."—— "Then go," says Apollo,
 "And tell them from me the profession to follow,
 "A verse manufactory there I will raise,
 "And grant the young bardlings some sprigs of my bays.
 "Do ye, oh ye Muses! vouchsafe then your aid,
 "And furnish materials fit for the trade;
 "Give 'em wit, give 'em learning and fancy and taste,
 "And reams of coarse paper in scribbling to waste."

" 'Tis our wish," said Thalia, who spoke for the Nine,
 " To second your scheme and promote the design ;
 " But first, let me tell you, we think it is meet
 " To build them a workhouse the plan to complete,
 " For, coop'd up at present, the juvenile band
 " Scarce have room for their bodies or souls to expand ;
 " For though into garrets sometimes we may go,
 " Or work off a poem in cellars below,
 " Yet poets can tell you this truth, if they please,
 " That the verses are best which are wrote most at ease."
 Says Phœbus : " You're right, and no time should be lost ;
 " I'll send a petition by Hermes the post,
 " And beg that the governors will not refuse
 " When requested by *me*, and desir'd by *each Muse*,
 " To build a New School, and promote the design,
 " Which so much will oblige both *myself* and the *Nine*.
 " If this shall be done all their names we'll rehearse,
 " And, to make them immortal, embalm them in verse,
 " For when we've completed so noble a plan,
 " Each *goose* on the Ribble we'll turn to a *swan*."

XIII.—ON THE MOOT HALL, CLITHEROE, BEING USED AS A TEMPORARY SCHOOL-HOUSE.

In nova fert animus mutatas dicere formas.—*Ovid*.

YOU'VE heard of Dame Baucis and Father Philemon
 Surpris'd with a change which they scarcely could dream on,
 How their house was transform'd to a church, and the people
 Beheld their old chimney swell out to a steeple ;
 Up mounted the kettle — the ladle flew after —
 They were chang'd to a bell, and hung fast by a rafter ;

While Baucis, astonish'd, was gazing the farce on,
Philemon that instant was chang'd to a parson.
Yet, odd as it seems, we've a similar case
In a strange metamorphosis wrought in this place ;
Apollo, arch-poet, arch-fiddler, physician,
To the bailiff right trusty made out a commission
To change to a school-house this quondam moot-hall,
And convert his own seat to a pedagogue's stall ;
So the bench where the bailiffs did justice dispense
With lectures resound of mood, figure and tense ;
The monitor silence commands from the place
Where " O yez ! " was pronounc'd by the serjeant-at-mace ;
A sceptre of birch now reposes each day
Where the mace, badge of dignity, formerly lay ;
For Jacob, Burn, Douglas, we've got in the courts
The pandects of Ainsworth and Lilly's reports ;
Where wrangling prevail'd, and discord and clamour,
They're kept within rules by the statutes of Grammar ;
Where counsel assembled to argue and bully,
Demosthenes pleads and is follow'd by Tully ;
Where brawling contention prevail'd for a word,
The Muses' sweet voice is in harmony heard.
Yet still 'tis a court where offences each day
Are punish'd, when heard, in a summary way ;
'Tis a court where delinquents are tryable still
Without bringing an action or filing a bill,
For the Muse in whose aid our most confident trust is
Will take care to do us poetical justice ;
And sure they'll have cause to be greatly afraid
When once in the hands of a testy old maid.
Thus the god to a school-house has chang'd the moot-hall,
And beneath has erected a shoemaker's stall ;
A butcher possesses the cellar below,
Where calves' heads for hogsheads are rang'd in a row.

Apollo, no doubt, had foreseen the election,
 And a moral conveys by so wise a direction :
 To the master and scholars he gave up these places
 As makers of concords and settlers of cases ;
 On the shoemaker's stall may this moral depend,
 That 'tis time of your quarrels to make a good *end*,
 That no man should suffer his friendships to fall,
 But *cobble* them up, since our friendship's our *all*,
New vamp your connections, then *rosin* them fast,
 And close as a *bristle* they'll stick to the *last* ;
 From the butcher you'll learn that in all your disputes,
 Whate'er you've above still beneath you'll have brutes,
 And your piques and your quarrels, however you got 'em,
 Betray both a raw-head and calves-head at bottom.

XIV.—FAREWELL TO CLITHEROE SCHOOL.

SPOKEN BY MR. PONSONBY ON THE 24TH JUNE 1781.

Quam vix sustinui dicere triste vale.—Ovid. Ep.

SEAL'D is my doom ! — alas ! the die is cast,
 The day of parting is arriv'd at last,
 The day, so long foreseen with anxious dread,
 Like a dark cloud impending o'er my head !
 This day my friendships, shaken to the roots,
 Shed their young leaves and drop their tender shoots,
 But whilst their warmth still lives within my heart,
 The task is painful when compell'd to part.
 Clitheroe, farewell ! but wheresoe'er I be,
 My "heart untravell'd" oft shall turn to thee ;
 With deep regret I go and anxious mind,
 And oft shall cast a longing look behind.

Thus the poor convict, ling'ring on the strand,
With eager glances eyes his native land,
With streaming tears he stoops upon the shore
To kiss the earth he ne'er shall visit more.

Here have I liv'd in innocence and ease,
Where ev'ry object had the power to please ;
The happiest part of life perhaps is o'er,
And days so cheerful may return no more ;
Reflection oft my thoughts will backward cast,
And future years draw pleasure from the past.
My youth, now launching on a dang'rous tide,
Calls loud for caution and requires a guide ;
For who can tell — what pilot can foresee
From present calms what storms shall swell the sea !
The youthful bosom is a viper's nest
Where inbred passions rend the parent breast,
Where inclinations rage without control,
And nature's instincts brutalize the soul ;
E'en genius oft, though by discretion nurs'd,
By the keen stings of appetite is curs'd.
Thus roses, form'd the garden to adorn,
Amidst their fragrance wear the pointed thorn ;
And many a plant, though rear'd with tend'rest care,
Has wither'd, droop'd and died in different air ;
And flow'rs which best repaid the cultor's toil
Have lost their beauties in a richer soil.

But 'midst these dangers safely may I steer,
From vicious habits and temptations clear !
And, oh ! what motives, with resistless force
And pleasing violence, urge a virtuous course !
For int'rest bids me, if I would be blest,
To harbour virtue in my spotless breast,
Since halcyon peace from innocence must flow,
And virtue all our happiness bestow ;

A father, too, with more than common joy,
 Will feel the virtues of his darling boy.
 If Heaven all gracious then has deign'd t' entwine
 A parent's happiness along with mine,
 Shall I that bosom in affliction see
 Which throbs with such solicitude for me?
 Dear are those transient joys — a world too dear,
 Which cost that precious drop — a parent's tear!

For you, who oft have heard my infant lays
 And nurs'd my genius with the dews of praise,
 Henceforth may discord in your bosoms cease,
 And party rage be mellow'd into peace!
 Since life's the journey of a little day,
 Say, why should brethren quarrel by the way?
 On *you* may Heaven increasing blessings shed,
 And silver o'er in peace each rev'rent head!
 Long on this wish the peaceful Muse could dwell,
 But sums up ev'ry prayer in one — FAREWELL!
 A long farewell, O Clitheroe, to thee;
 My friends, farewell; — and think sometimes of me!

XV. — THE SCHOOLBOY'S COMPLAINT.

SPOKEN AT CLITHEROE JUNE 24TH, 1785.

ATTEND with pity to my tale of woe,
 And let your sympathising sorrows flow.
 How hard, how cruel is the schoolboy's fate;
 What evils unforeseen around us wait!
 Torn from our weeping mother's fond embrace,
 We're dragg'd reluctant to this dismal place;
 Strangers to all, the stranger's fate we meet,
 And pensive pass unnotic'd through the street,

Then pine in durance vile, like luckless elves,
Though Briton's sons and free-born as yourselves.
Sick of our prison, cloy'd with mood and tense,
Lectured by stripes and cudgell'd into sense,
We're forc'd t' obey a tyrant's awful nod,
And smart and agonize beneath his rod.

But whilst our wretched bodies are confin'd
We feel, what's worse, a servitude of mind ;
Translations, verses and eternal themes
Engage our daily thoughts and haunt our dreams,
And frightful visions of the dismal day
Arise by night and chase our sleep away.
Depriv'd of aid, from our own funds we draw,
As Israel's sons made bricks debarr'd of straw ;
Invention spins the thread, 'tis then our doom
To weave it into rhyme in fancy's loom :
Thus, in their nooks, the lonely spiders spin,¹
And all the web is furnish'd from within.
Happier the bee that flies from flow'r to flow'r
Collecting honey in the vernal hour,
That robs each blossom of its hidden sweets,
And from the blended spoil her work completes.

Blest are the galley slaves who tug the oar,
They range from sea to sea, from shore to shore,
Whilst here, like Sisyphus, with ceaseless toils
We roll th' unwieldy stone which still recoils.
Daily we dig th' exhaustless Grecian mine,
Melt down the bullion and the mass refine.
Here, like th' united Greeks, each English boy
Ten years must suffer, at the siege of Troy ;
Or with Æneas ply the lusty oar,
And steer through dangers to the Latin shore.
We're all oblig'd to toil in early youth,
And drain, with leaky sieves, the well of truth ;

With aching eyes we're order'd to explore
The gems of science hid in Roman lore,
To gather thence the rules of right and wrong,
And form our *English* taste on *Roman* song,
Though all our gains but aggravate our doom,
Since Britons thus become the *slaves of Rome*.

For what great purpose are we taught to tell
How storm'd Achilles when Patroclus fell?
How Hecuba surviv'd the fall of Troy,
And rav'd, despairing, o'er her murder'd boy?
How *good* Æneas play'd an *impious* part,
First to seduce, then break poor Dido's heart?
These are but scenes of valour and of woe,
Which pass'd at least two thousand years ago.

No sounds here strike our ears but when the bell
Spreads the sad news of death with doleful knell,
And near our prison, wheresoe'er we tread,
Our feet disturb the ashes of the dead,
For all around, in many a mouldering heap,
"The rude forefathers" of the borough sleep.

In vain the sun exerts his cheering pow'r,
Expands each leaf and spreads out ev'ry flow'r;
The tuneful birds in vain, on ev'ry spray,
Pour their glad notes and all their plumes display;
Ev'ning in vain invites, with brow serene,
T' enjoy the gambols of the crowded green;
Though pleasures tempt, and inclination calls,
Cheerless we sit within these dreary walls,
Or, brooding o'er our books at home by night,
Renounce for study ev'ry dear delight.

Hard is our lot, to be debarr'd from play
In the mild morning of life's little day;
Ev'n instinct prompts to sport the youthful mind,
And nature's thwarted while we're thus confin'd;

Indulgence is our due, and great's the crime
To burthen life with care before the time.

Like the poor starling, oft we look about
In hopes to quit the eage — *but can't get out* ;
And should some friend indulge us with a day
To ease our suff'rings and relax with play,
'Tis but a seas'ning for the morrow's toil,
And lengthen'd tasks our short-liv'd pleasures spoil.
The bird, enlarg'd, with exultation flies,
And, freed for ever, triumphs in the skies ;
But *here*, alas ! enlargement is in vain,
For soon we're dragg'd to servitude again.

¹ At midsummer 1800 or 1801 this poem was reproduced for the recitation of Master T. B. Addison, then a pupil at Clitheroe, now the learned Chairman of the Quarter Sessions at Preston, when Mr. Wilson altered this couplet thus : —

“So poor Arachne is condemned to spin,
“And all the web is furnish'd from within.”

XVI. — AN IMITATION OF THE FIRST ODE OF HORACE.

SPOKEN BY A YOUNG GENTLEMAN BEFORE THE GOVERNORS
OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL.

YE guardians of this royal college,
Friends of the Muses, friends of knowledge,
What different objects men pursue,
With different pleasures still in view !

How many come from distant places,
Rous'd by the fame of Clitheroe races,
With eager zeal the horses follow,
And swear they beat Newmarket hollow ;
And he that wins the golden prize,
Grins, gapes, and shouts, and rends the skies.

Another wishes to be great,
In love with office, pomp and state,
Encounters insults, pain and sorrow
In noisy squabbles for the borough,
And on his canvass much he labours
To curry favour with his neighbours ;
Th' election comes, he's chosen bailiff,
Then struts like any Persian caliph,
The mace precedes, and through the town
He sweeps a draggled length of gown.

Another says his farm, though little,
Just suits his wishes to a tittle,
To ven'son he prefers his mutton,
Nor for your turtle cares a button ;
“ Let merchants plow,” says he, “ the main,
“ I'll plough my fields, nor plough in vain.”

The merchant talks of rural quiet
When winds and water breed a riot,
But soon as e'er the storm subsides
Forth from the port his vessel rides,
Still after wealth his wishes hanker,
He hates to see his ships at anchor.

Another thinks all bus'ness folly,
Since life is short he would be jolly ;
At breakfast lays a good foundation
By swilling down a strong potation ;
No tears he sheds unless he's drank hard,
And then they're only tears of tankard.
But now, distress'd, he oft repines
That North has lately tax'd our wines ;
A toper free, he holds this maxim,
And d—— the ministers that tax him ;
In all disorders, he'll maintain it,
No med'cine like a dose of Kennet.

Another pants for martial glory,
 Eager to shine in British story ;
 Boldly enlists, is clad in scarlet,
 Enjoys his bottle and his harlot ;
 He frowns and threatens, storms and blusters,
 And new coin'd oaths burst out in clusters ;
 He bids a long farewell to morals,
 And marches forth to gather laurels,
 Wishing to take the Yankees' lives,
 And to make widows of their wives.

In chase another risks his life,
 Preferring fox hounds to his wife,
 Enjoys the sport in midnight slumbers,
 Of hares and foxes sees great numbers,
 Sees brother sportsmen keen pursue,
 Is now at loss, now rides in view,
 Crosses deep rivers, strains up steepes,
 Gets dreadful falls, takes dang'rous leaps,
 And whilst these visions crowd his head,
 He whips and spurs poor spouse in bed.
 Early he rises, calls his men all,
 Visits the stables and the kennel,
 In order views his fellow brutes,
 Puts on his jacket and his boots,
 His hunter mounts, the huntsman follows,
 'Till echo's tir'd with whoops and holloas.

But I arise at six o'clock,
 Con o'er and o'er my hic, hæc, hoc,
 Give nouns and verbs their proper places,
 Determine genders, settle cases,
 By Latin rais'd above the throng
 That gabble in the Latin tongue ;
 And further, sirs, I'd have you know it,
 I long to be esteemed a poet,

And hope when you've my merits tried,
 You'll take upon you to decide
 Whether this piece deserves your praise,
 Or merits birch instead of bays ;
 If with the bays your bard's requited,
 You'll make me great as — Willy Whitehead !¹

¹ The Poet Laureate, who had succeeded Cibber in 1757, apparently with the concurrence of Gray and Mason, and who died April 14th, 1785, in his 70th year.

XVII. — SPOKEN BEFORE THE GOVERNORS OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL,

BY MASTER T. S. SHUTTLEWORTH,¹ 24TH JUNE 1786.

Look round the room, review our little troop,
 You'll find in miniature a manly group ;
 Gay, giddy, thoughtless though it now appears,
 'Twill play a serious part in future years,
 For great effects from little causes flow,
 As stately trees from smallest seeds will grow :
 Thus the tall oak that mounts unto the skies,
 Cradled at first within an acorn lies.

By watching here each movement of the mind
 'Tis seen which way the bias is inclin'd ;
 If right, 'tis follow'd and with art improv'd,
 If wrong, resisted, and with care remov'd ;
 Then here's the ground which gives the amplest scope
 To fill the parent's breast with sanguine hope.
 Each mother eyes with pride her darling son,
 And sees, e'en now, the race of glory run :
 Has Billy with delight his Bible read,
 She sees a mitre hov'ring o'er his head ;

If Jacky's ships swam foremost down the brook,
 She hails him Captain King, or Clerk, or Cook ;
 If Harry's pop-guns make the best report,
 He'll be at least a Colonel — war's his forte ;
 If George chop logic or is full of prate,
 He's destin'd to the Bar as sure as fate ;
 If Tommy o'er his studies gravely drudge,
 His sober industry denotes a Judge.

And who can tell what honours may arise
 To crown each wish and glad our ² parents' eyes ?
 Oft great designs are form'd upon a hint,
 As smart collisions strike the fire from flint,
 And genius kindled ³ with resistless force
 Expanding speeds aloft its rapid course :
 So, when a spark has touch'd the nitrous grain,
 The fire like light'ning flashes through the train.⁴
 But similes, as proofs, don't hit the joint ;
 Take, then, the following cases — all in point :
 When FEILDEN ⁵ was confirm'd his eye was drawn
 By secret magic to the Bishop's lawn,
 Thenceforth he hopes, and, what he hopes believes,
 That he shall live to wear such charming sleeves.
 As Captain KING ⁶ here join'd the jovial crew,
 And on this spot his first instructions drew,
 So HALLIDAY ⁷ expects from hence t' advance,
 And pour his thunder on the fleets of France.
 TARLETON,⁸ thus kindl'd by a Tarleton's fame,
 Shall add new glories to the deathless name,
 Shall hostile troops with gallantry oppose,
 And hurl destruction on his country's foes.
 With LEE ⁹ delighted, in the strife of tongues,
 BARROW ¹⁰ to law devotes his time and lungs,
 And hopes, if you'll indulge him with a brief,
 Your claims t' establish, or convict a thief.

CARR,¹¹ struck with WILLES's¹² merry face in Court,
 Wishes himself a Judge t' enjoy such sport,
 Year books will read, Reports and Norman-French,
 And longs to crack his jokes upon the Bench.
 To see the Magistrates at Preston Sessions,
 With hats upon their heads, determine questions,
 Has made the Bench *my* object; and my trust is
 To be Lord Chancellor, or, at least a Justice.
 We're now in training, toiling at the drill,
 And hope, with praise, our several parts to fill;
 But this we'll promise, that, whate'er our fate,
 We will be honest, though we can't be great.

¹ Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth Esq., a scion of an ancient and wealthy house in the county. He was distinguished for his knowledge of the law, which he practised at Preston with much success, being Deputy Clerk of the Crown and Registrar of the Chancery of the county palatine of Lancaster. He died at Ashton near Preston 20th August 1819, in his 46th year, and was father of Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth Esq., Clerk of the Crown for the county palatine of Lancaster.

² each.

³ kindling.

⁴ This couplet is omitted in the MS. volume.

⁵ William Feilden of Feniscowles near Blackburn, third son of Joseph Feilden of Witton Park Esq., descended from Randle Feilden, nominated one of the original governors of Blackburn Grammar School in Queen Elizabeth's Charter in 1567. He was born in 1772, many years M.P. for the borough of Blackburn, created a Baronet in 1846, and died May 17th 1850.

⁶ James King, Captain in the Royal Navy, LL.D., F.R.S., &c., the friend and companion of Cook in his last voyage round the world, and the historian of the voyage from the death of that celebrated man. He ob. October 1784 æt. 32, unmarried, at Nice, where he was interred. He was the second son of the Rev. James King M.A. Minister of Clitheroe and Downham, afterwards Vicar of Guildford, and in 1772 Canon of Windsor. He exchanged his Canonry in 1775 for the Deanery of Raphoe, and ob. at Woodstock in 1795. His wife was Ann, daughter and coheirress of John Walker of Hungerhill in the West Riding of the county of York Esq. The Dean's sons were all distinguished men; the eldest, Dr. Thomas King, was Chancellor of Lincoln; the third, Dr. Walker King, was Bishop of Rochester; Edward, the fourth, was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; and John, the youngest, was Under Secretary of State under Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland, and Lord Pelham.

⁷ John Richard Delap Halliday, son of John D. Halliday Esq. by his wife Jane,

daughter of Lionel third Earl of Dysart K.T. He became a Rear Admiral, and married in 1797 Elizabeth, daughter of John third Earl of Aldborough, and having assumed the surname of Tollemache, died in 1837.

⁸ — Tarleton, presumed to be a son of Mr. Thomas Tarleton of Clitheroe (who married Mary, daughter of Mr. Laurence Robinson of Clitheroe), son of Alderman Tarleton of Liverpool, and an elder brother of Banastre Tarleton, a General Officer in the army, Colonel of the 21st Light Dragoons, and created a Baronet in 1818. General Sir Banastre Tarleton Bart. K.C.B. was M.P. for his native town of Liverpool from 1790 to 1806, and from 1807 to 1812. He married in 1798 a natural daughter of Robert fourth Duke of Ancaster, but died at Aigburth without surviving issue 16th January 1833, aged 79, when the Baronetcy became extinct. This presumed nephew of the Baronet probably died young.

⁹ Lee, a Barrister.

¹⁰ George Barrow of Lancaster Esq.

¹¹ William Carr of Blackburn and Clitheroe Castle Esq., afterwards well known for his extensive legal attainments. He was the confidential friend and sole executor of Mr. Wilson, and uncle of W. T. Carr Esq. of the Temple. London.

¹² Edward Willes Esq. was the third son of Sir John Willes Knt. Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 1766, and one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench in 1767. He married Ann, daughter of the Rev. Edward Taylor of Sutton, Wilts, by Ann his wife, sister of William Shippen Esq. M.P. His relict died in Hereford street, London, February 1st 1799, being described as "great niece and nearest remaining relative of the celebrated William Shippen." — *Gent. Mag.* vol. lxi. p. 256.

XVIII. — SPOKEN BEFORE THE GOVERNORS OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL.

BY MASTER TOWNLEY RIGBY SHAW.

I MAKE a speech, sir! No. Pray who'll expect it?
'Tis out of character — I wont affect it.
Besides, 'tis hard a boy like me to press on,
And call me thus to say a public lesson;
I'm not afraid, though, for I see no danger,
And make no diff'rence 'twixt a friend and stranger:

But sure 'tis cruel to be kept on duty
When thus surrounded by the smiles of beauty ;
They'd show us pity if they saw us hammer
With faces of chagrin o'er Lilly's grammar.
This very place a full half year I've sat in
To learn the rudiments, forsooth, of Latin !
Month after month we're here confin'd in prison,
With rhyme enough, 'tis true, but little reason ;
But the confinement's not the greatest evil,
We learn hard words enough to raise the devil:
And where's their use? For many of our betters
Could ne'er speak Latin, and scarce knew their letters.
With study sick, and burning in a fever,
Will Latin cool or cure us, think you? Never !
Will Latin make us good or fair? I doubt it ;
These ladies, see, are good and fair without it ;
The nymphs would blush if I pronounc'd before 'em
Such naughty words as *horum, harum, horum*.
Then farewell Latin ! freely I'll resign it,
I'll neither read, nor construe, but decline it.
If truth must out, the truth I will not garble,
I'll sell my Grammar freely for a marble.
Farewell, old Accidence ! not worth three straws,
Henceforth I'll study bads, and tops, and taws.

Townley Rigby Shawe was son of William Shawe of Preston Esq., descended from William Shawe of the same place Esq., who recorded a Pedigree at Dugdale's Visitation in 1664. He was born in 1774 and died unmarried in 1843, being succeeded by his brother, William Shawe of Preston Esq. J. P. He was nephew of Major-General Rigby of Roefield near Clitheroe.

XIX. — THE GOOSE.

No more shall the bards in their verses approve
 That tyrant of birds, the fierce eagle of Jove ;
 No more shall the dove be the theme of their song,
 Or the nightingale, pride of the warbling throng ;
 No more shall the swan be the subject of praise,
 Or the peacock of Juno give grace to their lays ;
 The sparrows of Venus no more shall they sing,
 Or the cuckoo extol, the sweet herald of spring ;
 But the goose — the fat goose — shall hereafter be sung,
 Each pen shall engage and still dwell on each tongue,
 For the goose in the annals of time you will find
 Was of old a domestic and friend of mankind.

When Rome to the Gauls seem'd abandon'd by fate,
 A goose in the capitol rescu'd the state ;
 Though wily as foxes, and screen'd by the night,
 'Twas a goose patriotic which put them to flight,
 And lest time should so noble an action efface
 Her image in silver was rais'd on the place.
 'Twas this noble achievement suggested the use
 Of that princely diversion, the game of The Goose.

May ¹ many such geese 'mongst our senators sit,
 For honesty fam'd though the butts of each wit ;²
 Their voice, though discordant, is populi vox,
 And the realm may preserve ³ from the wiles of the *Fox*,

To the goose, for such service, precedence is due,
 And many old customs still keep it in view :
 Thus the goose 'midst the cabbage presides o'er the board
 When the tailor with remnants his table has stor'd ;
 And hence, too, in boroughs together they choose
 A bailiff, or mayor, with a Michaelmas goose.

Such renown has the goose for her patriot spirit !
 Yet this, 'tis allow'd, is not half of her merit ;
 For what bird on the water, on earth, or in air,
 With the plump stubble goose can in flavour compare !
 At the end of a feast with what pleasure we spy
 And call for a cut of the pompous goose-pie !
 When the burgesses meet with what rapture each man
 For the sake of the goose will repair to the Swan ; ⁴
 With fondness they view her when brought to the table,
 And eat, cram, and swallow as fast as they're able ;
 Joy lights up each visage, with zeal they engage,
 Till, gorg'd with the goose and regal'd with the sage,
 Dead silence prevails, not a syllable drops,
 And nought but the gravy escapes from their chops ;
 Besmear'd and bespatter'd, they seem when they cease
 Like scholars profound who have travell'd through *Greece*.

But the goose among Britons will gain admiration,
 For she stands on one leg,—this will please the whole nation !
 To stand on one leg has rais'd Vestris to fame ;
 Give applause to the goose then, the goose does the same.

But the goose, too, is found to contribute her aid
 To sciences, arts, and the interests of trade ;
 All the books on the shelves of the learned proclaim
 The great use of the quill and its title to fame.
 Your Lockes, too, and Newtons and Johnsons will own
 To the goose they're indebted for half their renown,
 For the head's their alembic where sense they distil,
 And draw off the contents through an eloquent quill.

In vain, too, the bards would endeavour to sing
 Should the goose in ill-humour refuse them her wing ;
 By her plumage supported themselves they can raise,
 And own to the goose a great part of their praise.
 Nay, many a poet, in spite of his skill,
 His only subsistence imbibes through a quill,

For poor's the reward which his labours produce,
 Since the wit gets the quills while the fool eats the goose !
 Thus uncloth'd and unfed the poor poet obtains
 The bare appellation of goose for his pains.

Even deep politicians without a debate
 Will allow that the quill is an engine of state ;
 Nay, the *Fox*, the sly *Fox*, who has made such a fuss,
 Will confess himself vastly oblig'd to the goose.
 But now, when adrift, he's pursu'd as fair game,
 And each goose lends her quills to bespatter his fame ;
 All Grub-street they'll arm in the cause to engage,
 And drive such a Machiavel quite off the stage ;
 They'll hiss, gape, and gabble, and fairly let loose,
 Will make him afraid to say " Bo !" to a goose.

When an engine of law, like a magical wand,
 The quill can convey both your houses and land ;
 With a dash and a scribble, heigh, presto ! 'tis gone !
 An estate is transferr'd or a client undone.
 Thus the wily attorney can play fast and loose,
 And keep up the game of The Fox and the Goose.

The learned physician, when arm'd with the quill
 According to art his ten thousands can kill,
 With Death he goes halves, and both thrive by disease,
 For death takes the patient, the doctor his fees ;
 Thus the quill finds employment to keep up the test,
 And each from the goose strives to feather his nest.

The goose too's the friend of the reverend divine ;
 By the quill he's enabled in pulpits to shine,
 'Till fawning and cringing have gain'd him the mitre,
 Then careless he slumbers, no longer a writer.

Had the quill been denied his ideas to bring forth
 The music of Handel had died in the birth,
 His musical maggots in vain had been bred,
 And crotchets, abortive, had died in his head.

The merchant that trusts to the boist'rous main,
And danger defies in pursuit of his gain,
Will frankly confess that his mercantile skill
Is debtor to goose for the use of the quill.

The miser, intent on increasing his store,
Is oblig'd to the quill for recounting it o'er,
'Till at last, to a goose metamorphos'd himself,
He lays golden eggs and still broods o'er his pelf.

The goose, 'tis allow'd, her kind offices lends
To preserve, spite of absence, th' affection of friends,
For the pen such impressions of kindness imparts
As seldom, in fact, find a place in your hearts.
Though Venus of old has distinguish'd the dove
As the bird of her choice and an emblem of love,
Yet the goose above all can assist the fond swain,
His wishes disclose and his passion explain,
And the nymph is enabled by means of the quill
Her languishing lover to cure or to kill.

Should nations contend or hostilities cease,
The quill declares war or announces a peace ;
And generals, too, so successfully write
That they kill with the pen more than died in the fight ;
For oft the Gazette many thousands has slain
Who have afterwards risen and rallied again.

The goose too, we find, her soft plumage bestows
Faint limbs to recruit and promote our repose :
When nature exhausted no more can sustain,
By sickness assaulted or tortur'd with pain,
On the spoils of the goose which beneath us are spread,
We lose the fatigues of the heart and the head.
Such charms have her feathers, in magic they bind
The body's exertions and pow'rs of the mind,
For Morpheus vouchsaf'd all her plumage to steep
In Lethe's soft waters — the river of sleep ;

And such are their virtues all pains they control,
But the keen pangs of conscience which shoot thro' the soul.

Thus Pallas will own that the goose can impart
The firmest support to each science and art;
The Muses and Phœbus confess her their friend,
And her willing assistance most warmly commend;
Even Venus allows, though attach'd to the dove,
That no bird's of such use in the bus'ness of love;
Blind Plutus admits that the wing of the goose,
Where the funds are concern'd, is of principal use;
Nay, Mars will confess that the goose-quill has done
More service in war than the sword or the gun;
And Morpheus avers that no opiate he knows
Can vie with her feathers in giving repose.

Let the goose, then, for ever by all be preferr'd,
And hold the precedence o'er every bird;
And may you who have deign'd with such patience to hear,
Enjoy the fat goose as the best of good cheer.
Accept our best thanks in return for your trouble,
And fat be the geese that are fed in your stubble!

¹ Thus.

² For honesty fam'd though not fam'd for their wit.

³ has preserv'd.

⁴ The principal Inn in Clitheroe.

XX. — THE SEARCH FOR CONTENT.

ONE day when the gods were engagèd in chat,
Like mortals conversing on this thing and that,
The Thunderer observ'd that to earth he had sent
As a blessing to man, the fair goddess CONTENT,
But so long she'd been absent he fear'd she was lost,
He therefore resolv'd to send Hermes, the post,

To search in what quarter the fugitive stray'd,
 And fairly report what discoveries he made.
 The order was given — and quickly the god
 Adjusted his bonnet and took up his rod ;
 Outstripping the winds he flew quick as the light,
 To the white cliffs of Britain directing his flight,
 As Britain he knew was of Europe the pride,
 CONTENT, he conceiv'd, must in Britain reside.

In quest of the goddess he first went to Court,
 Supposing she'd choose such a splendid resort,
 But observing the Throne was encircled with care,
 He wisely concluded she'd never been there.
 To the Minister next he directed his course,
 And found the state pilot with wrangling was hoarse ;
 Though his face wore a smile, and though placid his mien,
 Yet CONTENT, he confess'd, he had never yet seen.
 He next took a trip to those sons of Ambition
 Who bawl and declaim to promote Opposition ;
 But he knew from the marks of chagrin in each face
 That CONTENT with the Faction was quite *out of place*.
 To the Clergy his course he determin'd to steer,
 In hopes from the Priesthood some tidings to hear ;
 But CONTENT was a stranger to all, they confest,
 Though each could describe her, and wish'd her his guest.
 To a Bishop he went, who could flatter and fawn,
 Whose servile deportment had gain'd him the lawn ;
 When rais'd to the mitre his heart had run o'er,
 And CONTENT, for a while, took her stand at his door,
 But hearing him pray for a speedy translation,
 She was quickly provok'd and retir'd from her station.

Disappointed, from hence noble Hermes withdrew,
 And join'd in a tavern a Bacchanal crew ;
 The joke, laugh, and bottle went merrily round,
 But their glee was repaid with a head-ache, he found ;

They jok'd without wit, and they laugh'd without mirth,
And their happiness ow'd to the bottle its birth;
He therefore concluded, what oft has been tried,
That CONTENT can't with Comus or Bacchus reside.
He next join'd a party of gossiping Dames
Who met to demolish a list of good names;
From the slander he heard, this reflection he drew,
That the bosom of envy CONTENT never knew.
He now had recourse to some fox-hunting Squires,
Whose rudeness and health were deriv'd from their sires;
He found 'twas their business, their ultimate good,
To leap over hedges and shout through a wood;
They frankly inform'd him 'tis bliss they pursue,
But never o'ertake it, though always in view;
He therefore concluded, abroad they'd not roam
If fully convinc'd that CONTENT was at home.
At Oxford and Cambridge he found in each college
A good stock of port and a deep fund of knowledge;¹
A Professor he saw, with his trencher-capp'd people,
Was solemnly taking the height of a steeple,
And others were filling a mighty balloon,
Resolv'd to adventure a trip to the moon;
A party with meagre, contemplative looks,
Were smoothing the dog-cars and dusting their books;
A few he observ'd, to secure a degree,
Were carefully measuring the leaps of a flea,
And hop'd they'd be able t' elucidate soon
At how many skips she would leap to the moon;
But Hermes from College return'd as he went,
For none of the members had met with CONTENT,
But all had concluded the goddess must dwell,
Together with Truth, in a bottomless well.
He sought through the Navy, the Army, and Bar,
But CONTENT was not met with in peace or in war;

Every age he examin'd, each sex, all professions,
 But CONTENT was not number'd among their possessions ;
 He enquir'd of each nymph, whether black, brown, or fair,
 But was constantly answer'd, CONTENT was not there.

Fatigu'd, and despairing the goddess to meet,
 And without any clue to point out her retreat,
 By chance he esp'd, by the side of a wood,
 A lonely low cottage whose walls were of mud ;
 Its top was green turf, and green rushes the thatch,
 The door was quite plain with a string to the latch ;
 In front was a field with a small flock of sheep,
 And goats at a distance were climbing a steep.
 He gaz'd for awhile, and was pleas'd with the spot,
 Then lifting the latch bolted into the cot ;
 A Shepherd was sat by a bright little fire,
 Whose aspect was placid, and neat his attire ;
 His wife, with such looks as abundantly prove
 By silent expression obedience and love,
 Was employ'd at her wheel : here the god look'd around,
 And saw with success his enquiries were crown'd,
 For CONTENT sat betwixt them, and strove with a smile
 Their labours, their cares, and their time to beguile.

When the goddess and Hermes, o'erjoy'd at this meeting,
 Had saluted each other and finish'd their greeting,
 Hermes ask'd, with an arch but a good temper'd tone,
 "How long have you liv'd, pray, with Darby and Joan ?"
 CONTENT, with a look of much kindness, repli'd :
 "They've been married three weeks, and I came with the bride ;
 "But, from what I've observ'd, I can plainly foresee
 "They cannot for many days longer agree ;
 "For Madam last night, in a petulant fit,
 "With an ill-natur'd air gave me warning to quit,
 "And now I'm resolv'd in the course of a week
 "To take a French leave, and new quarters to seek."

The dialogue ended, soon Hermes the god
 Tied the wings to his shoes and adjusted his rod,
 Gave a kiss to CONTENT and the two honest people,
 Then sprang from the ground to the height of a steeple,
 Join'd the gods in a minute, and made his report
 At the first quarter sessions, when Jove was in court.
 Jove heard the detail, and was sorry he'd sent
 On an errand so fruitless the goddess CONTENT :
 "So Hermes," says he, "with a posse of gods
 "Go fetch her once more to these happy abodes ;
 "Let PATIENCE go with you, but leave her below
 "As the highest felicity mortals shall know ;
 "Their lives such a wonderful mixture of ills,
 "Which spring from their passions, their fancies, and wills,
 "That CONTENT seeks admission with labour in vain,
 "Then let them have PATIENCE, and cease to complain."
 Well pleas'd with their errand, they cheerfully went,
 And brought back, rejoicing, the goddess CONTENT.
 But PATIENCE they left, by the Father assign'd
 To comfort, relieve, and encourage mankind ;
 And if they've a wish for CONTENT, 'twill be given
 When PATIENCE has render'd them worthy of Heaven.

¹ Omitted in some copies : —

"Where her aid Alma Mater with fondness imparts,
 Fair science to read and to foster the arts."

XXI. — THE MURMURING ASS.

AN ass of this borough, which frequently trots
To fetch us from Burslem assortments of pots,
One Winter imagin'd he had ample reason
To lament his hard fate and complain of the season ;
For his back with his burden was frightfully raw ;
No grass could he get nor a truss of clean straw ;
Amongst all the bottles he used to convey
He was seldom indulg'd with a bottle of hay :
He wish'd for the Spring, that the genial weather
Fresh grass might produce and repair his lost leather.

The Spring, clad in green, soon came, — but, alas !
No respite from labour, no time to eat grass ;
His back larger burdens sustain'd than before,
Which augmented his pains and increas'd his old sore.
Disappointed and vex'd, with impatience he bray'd,
And for Summer's arrival most earnestly pray'd.

As Summer advanc'd the tyrannical potter
Reduc'd not his load, though the weather grew hotter ;
No time was allow'd for indulging his palate,
Or range in the pastures to pick up a salad ;
Though hunger invited, as well might he whistle
As stoop to the hedge to regale on a thistle ;
His sores were inflam'd and continued to fester,
And armies of flies the poor animal pester ;
He now wish'd for Autumn, that season of plenty,
Expecting to riot on many a dainty.

But of labour in Autumn his portion was double,
And blows with short commons compensate his trouble ;
He gets but his labour, alas ! for his pains,
Though fruits most delicious his pannier contains ;

Had you seen his bare back you'd have shudder'd and swoon'd,
It was perfectly flay'd, 'twas one general wound !

And now through the seasons his murmurs had run,
Had embitter'd each month and kept pace with the sun,
He therefore resolv'd, if he Autumn surviv'd,
To submit to the Winter when Winter arriv'd.
It was therefore his maxim, whatever his station,
All evil to suffer with calm resignation.

Let us rest then contented, take things as they pass,
Nor disdain to learn wisdom though taught by an ass ;
Life's comforts may lessen or add to our woe
If pleasures unmix'd are expected below.

XXII. — THE FORTUNATE FISHERMAN ;
OR DISAPPOINTED AVARICE.

A FABLE.

WITH rod in hand, one day poor Dorus stood
Upon the margin of the briny flood ;
His line long time he watch'd with anxious eyes,
Hoping to carry home the wish'd supplies ;
His hungry offspring chide his tedious stay,
Whose food was but the produce of each day.
Fortune seem'd cruel to his earnest wish,
For long he'd stay'd but had not caught a fish ;
Nay, fortune seem'd to show uncommon spite,
All day he fish'd but not a fish would bite.
Tir'd and chagrin'd and ready to resign,
He found a weight pull down his trembling line,
He drew it tow'rds the shore with cautious hand,
His eye was fix'd in hopes to see it land ;

'Twas not a plaice, nor herring, trout nor sprat,
'Twas not a salmon, nor — you'll scarce guess what ;
Whate'er it was, with force it seem'd to pull,
'Twas brought to land and prov'd — a human skull !
Dorus at first, astonish'd at the sight,
Stood gaping with the looks of wild affright ;
But when recover'd, he began to think
Which would be best — to leave it on the brink,
Or to return it to the rolling flood,
Or to inter it in the neighbouring wood.
But pity o'er his breast exerts her sway,
And all his soul to tenderness gave way.
“ Who knows,” says he, “ alas !” (and as he speaks
The piteous tear ran trickling down his cheeks,)
“ Who knows but this a portion once might be
“ Of some fond parent or a spouse like me ?
“ His weeping children, now a num'rous brood,
“ Perhaps, like mine, are destitute of food ;
“ Perhaps his widow ceases not to mourn,
“ And lisping babes enquire when he'll return ;
“ Perhaps his ship was wreck'd in sight of land ;
“ Perhaps he fell by some assassin's hand :
“ Whate'er his fate, or whatsoe'er his worth,
“ I'll hide this relique in the lap of earth.”
Pity her counsel thus to Dorus gave,
Who hied into the wood to form the grave ;
The grave he digs and, as he digs, behold !
He found — say what ? a pot brim-full of gold !
A sum beyond whate'er his soul desir'd —
A sum to which his wishes ne'er aspir'd ;
Homeward he bore the prize with joyful face,
And left the skull to occupy its place.
The sordid miser who conceal'd the store
At ev'ning came to count his treasure o'er ;

But guess his wonder when, within the place,
He saw a death's head staring in his face.

From hence we learn that Heav'n will always bless
The man whose bosom melts with tenderness;
That crosses still the miser's bliss will spoil,
And threat'ning Death derides his useless toil.

XXIII. — THE BATHEASTON VASE.¹

ALAS! from the world Lady Millar is fled;
Some say she's translated, some say she is dead;
But the Nine have assur'd us she's one of their throng,
A dry nurse of bardlings and prompter of song;
And I've a commission to tell it as news
That now Lady Millar's become the tenth Muse,
And fully determines to fix in this place
A receiver of wit, like the Batheaston Vase.
'Twas spoke of to Bacchus, who swore by his soul,
He'd lend for the purpose the great borough bowl:
"Odds bottles! the poets shall have it, by jingo!"
"I wish, for their sakes, it was full of right stingo;
"The pleasures of drinking these poets prolong,
"For we oft drink a bottle for sake of a song;
"In any respect when they're put to a shift,
"Let them crave my assistance — I'll give them a lift."

She next went to Phœbus, who gave her commission
To practise at Clitheroe as female physician;

* * * *
* * * *

To open sometimes their poetical veins,
And give them strong errhines for purging their brains;

But after such heaps of such terrible stuff,
You'll judge that their brains have had purging enough.

But resolv'd, as at Bath, her great joram to fill,
She'll take in all grist that is brought to her mill;
At once she receives such a mixture of grain
That to sift it or sort it is labour in vain;
Some is all wit, some small wit, some flour, and some bran,
Some spoil'd in the threshing, some miss'd by the fan;
Then blame not the Nine, nor their talents abuse,
This trash was inspir'd by a Batheaston Muse.

But why do I censure or dare thus to jest on
The poets of Bath or the wits of Batheaston;
They critics defy and care not five pins,
Since their charity hides their poetical sins;
But their charity needs must be great if it hide
Such numbers of sins, and such large ones beside!

¹ He alludes to that curious exhibition of poetical vanity, "Poetical Amusements at a Villa at Bath, 1781," 4 vols. 8vo, being a Collection of the Poems, by different authors, written for the Batheaston Vase of Lady Millar.

XXIV. — ON HOPE.

WHEN from this wicked world the gods withdrew,
Hope stay'd behind, nor hence amongst them flew.
Hope cheers the peasant when he turns the soil,
And promises a harvest from his toil;
She bids the artful fowler springèd lay,
And still assures him of the wish'd for prey;
The patient angler, stretching o'er the flood,
Hopes on his hook to catch the scaly brood;

Through her, though wreck'd, when no kind shore he spies,
 Amidst the waves his arms the sailor plies;
 Pris'ners, to dungeons doom'd, still hope reprieve,
 Nor at the tree does Hope the convict leave.
 Sometimes physicians give the patient o'er,
 But Hope remains though Death be at the door;
 Nay, death itself she strives to drive away,
 And promises the wretch another day.
 The slave in hopes of liberty remains,
 Though on his legs he hears the clanking chains;
 Hope cheers the drudging slave that digs the mine,
 And cries, "Sweet liberty will soon be thine!"
 By her delusions, too, the virgin's led,
 When scarce a tooth remains and grey her head,
 She hopes some swain, a captive to her charms,
 Shall kneel, shall die, shall jump into her arms!

XXV. — PRESTON GUILD, 1782.

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO A FRIEND AT BLACKPOOL.¹

Your commands were receiv'd from the Captain, dear Madam,
 And I wish'd to obey them as soon as I had 'em,
 So I sat down to write, and appli'd to my Muse,
 And was mortified greatly to find her refuse:
 But the Nine at such scenes ne'er exhibit their faces,
 They fled from the crowd to make room for the Graces;
 Yet for prose, 'midst the tumult, I scarcely have time,
 And, in spite of the Muses, must scribble in rhyme,
 But can scarcely begin 'mongst this chaos of stuff,
 For it must be confess'd I have matter enough.

The Recorder² attracted the eyes of the town,
 With his wig of three tails, and the blush³ of his gown;

Joy sparkled and smil'd in the face of the Mayor,⁴
 And he march'd through the town with right worshipful air ;
 What dignity shone in the steps of each Bailiff,⁵
 With the look of command and the pomp of a Caliph !
 New scour'd was the mace and so bright, I could see 't,
 By the help of a glass, half the length of a street.

'Twas glorious to see how the men of all trades,
 With faces clean wash'd, wore their flaming cockades ;
 With a strut of true consequence every profession
 Did honour to Preston throughout the procession ;
 The gentlemen, coupled in pair after pair,
 Cock'd their hats and look'd fierce when review'd by the fair.

I'd the pleasure to see our old grandmother Eve,
 But how Adam was tempted I cannot conceive,
 For her face and her eyes seem'd not fitted for slaughter,
 And I'm sure that she ne'er had so ugly a daughter ;
 I cannot observe, on perusing her face,
 The remains of one dimple, or traits of one grace ;
 And, if truth may be spoken, our grandfather Adam
 Is stupid and awkward and clumsy as madam.

But I cannot describe nor sufficiently praise
 The beauties that beam'd with astonishing blaze ;
 'Twas a rich constellation, a galaxy quite ;
 'Twas a host of fair angels, too much for the sight !
 They were Lancashire Witches, whom Venus still arms
 With the magic of eyes and profusion of charms ;
 They bound us with spells, and display'd all their art
 To wind their soft fetters in wreaths round the heart ;
 Each eye is prepar'd, and well tutor'd, no doubt,
 And love, death, and darts are still flying about ;
 Each shot is successful, well aim'd at its man,
 And all look as killing as ever they can.
 Amidst their parading such glances were sent
 That sighs were excited wherever they went ;

Here gowns, caps and ruffles perform'd well their part,
 While nets, lawns and gauzes are spread for the heart.
 E'en matrons of eighty, with years bowèd down,
 Stand straight as an arrow, and skip through the town ;
 Each dame her old age and infirmity scorns,
 And skims o'er the pavement in spite of her corns ;
 Her flagging curls coaxes with diligent care,
 And her baldness relieves by a purchase of hair.

All the world is at Preston — the multitude spreads
 So thick through each street, 'tis a pavement of heads ;
 Whilst feasting and dancing and music and noise
 Are the soul of the Guild and the chief of its joys.
 But who's the first toast and the favourite belle
 Must a secret remain, for no mortal can tell.
 All agree in the praise of the delicate features,
 The person, and manners, and air of Miss PETERS ;⁶
 And none I have seen who the palm are for yielding
 To the beauty of Blackburn, the pretty Miss FEILDEN ;⁷
 The swains cast an eye, too, and languishing look,
 On the beauty of Preston, the pleasing Miss BROOKE ;⁸
 And HULTON⁹ ne'er fails admiration to raise,
 And richly deserves a whole penful of praise.

'Twas whisper'd to-day that the famous Miss WEST¹⁰
 Is come to the Guild, and appears 'mongst the best,
 And no art such deceivers with safety can match,
 But to watch well your pocket and pocket your watch.

No more I can add, but that joy reigns around,
 And with peace and good humour the festival's crown'd.

¹ Mrs. Serjeant Aspinall of Stauden Hall, near Clitheroe.

² Mr. Serjeant Aspinall, the recorder of Preston.

³ "And the plush on his gown."

⁴ Richard Atherton Esq., guild mayor.

⁵ Robinson Shuttleworth and Nicholas Grimshaw Esquires, bailiffs.

⁶ Miss Peters was the daughter of Ralph Peters of Platt Bridge in the county of Lancaster Esq., barrister at law and deputy recorder of Liverpool, by his wife —,

daughter of John Entwisle of Liverpool merchant, and granddaughter of Bertie Entwisle Esq. Recorder of Liverpool and Vice-chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. She was born in 1766, and married the Rev. Croxton Johnson LL.B. (son of George Johnson of Timperley Hall in the county of Chester Esq.) Rector of Wilmslow and Fellow of the Collegiate Church of Manchester. He died January 30, 1814, and was buried at Wilmslow.

⁷ Cecilia, only daughter of Joseph Feilden Esq. (brother of Sir William Feilden of Feniscowles Bart. M.P.) married in 1786 Richard Willis of Halsnead Park Esq., and ob. April 11, 1822, having had issue by him nine sons and six daughters. She was aunt of Joseph Feilden now of Witton Park Esq.

⁸ Susanna, only daughter of Richard Brooke of Astley Hall in the county of Lancaster Esq., and sole heiress of her brother Peter Brooke Esq. the representative of the ancient family of Charnock of Charnock, was born May 4, 1762, married at Croston Oct. 16, 1787, 1st Thomas Townley Parker of Extwisle, Royle and Cuerden Esq., and 2ndly in August 1797 Sir Henry Philip Hoghton of Hoghton Tower and Walton Hall Bart. M.P. She died at Astley December 2, 1852, in her ninety-first year, and never forgot either the poem or the compliments paid her by the poet, having been heard to allude to this poem and the "Lancashire Bouquet" within a short period of her death.

⁹ Anne, only daughter of William Hulton of Hulton Park Esq., married Banastre Parker of Extwisle, Royle and Cuerden in the county of Lancaster Esq. (elder brother of Thomas Townley Parker), and ob. s.p. in 1830.

¹⁰ Miss West, according to tradition, was a noted pickpocket, and the lines are sufficiently allusive to a person exercising that artful calling, and sufficiently suggestive.

XXVI. — THE LANCASHIRE BOUQUET.¹

As Cupid through Lancashire pass'd upon duty,
 He sent up these names to the Goddess of Beauty,
 As flow'rs which, at random collected, he chose
 In the form of a Nosegay to aptly dispose,
 To offer to Hymen his brother the gift,
 With an earnest request that he'd lend them a lift,
 That he'd free them at last from their sighs and their cares,
 First arrange them with taste, and then bind them in pairs;

For though in the garden they held up their heads,
 And all seem'd content to enjoy their own beds,
 Yet, all things consider'd, he thought it was best
 To crop them and stick them in each others' breast;
 The Nosegay's subjoin'd — 'tis Nature's own bounty,
 'Tis Cupid's collection, the growth of this county !

Sir WILLIAM,² the Reverend, in spite of his reading,
 Bears a wound in his breast, oh ! he's *Love lies a-bleeding* ;
 A *Carnation* Miss MOSLEY,³ health glows in her face,
 And to all her accomplishments adds a sweet grace ;
 In BAMFORD⁴ *Sweet William* its beauties displays,
 The figure's attractive, an object of praise ;
 Miss CLERK⁵ claims attention, the neat *Virgin's Bower*,
 Where Cupid is quarter'd and rules with full power ;
The Bachelor's Button Sir FRANK⁶ we may call,
 But unbutton'd so long will scarce button at all ;
 SUKEY CLERK⁷ is a *Willow* which surely can bind
 In bands of affection the hearts of mankind ;
 In Sir WHALLEY⁸ the true female *Balsam*'s display'd,
 Which a bloom can dispense to wife, widow, or maid ;
 Miss LEVER's⁹ all fragrance, a sweet *Mignonnette*,
 Where the Graces and Loves in good humour have met ;
 In STARKY's¹⁰ tall form *Honeysuckle* we trace,
 Which clings to its object, and lives to embrace ;
 Miss MASTER's¹¹ a *Touch-me-not*, for, if you do,
 Her wit is wound up for one stroke to give two ;
 Mr. HULTON¹² resembles the true *Flos Adonis*,
 Where Cupid resides and where Venus's throne is ;
 Miss PETERS¹³ is *Sweetbriar*, where you will see
 An emblem of beauty and sweet repartee ;
 Mr. JOHNSON¹⁴ we'll dare *Lady's Slipper* to call,
 Put off or put on, yet the servant of all ;
 Miss FEILDEN¹⁵ exhibits the true *Maiden's Blush*,
 Where modesty heightens health's delicate flush ;

Mr. HILL ¹⁶ is a *Jessamine*, pretty and spruce,
 To the fair he's devoted and lives for their use ;
 Miss STARKY ¹⁷ is *Rosemary*, ne'er may she prove
 To wormwood allied in the commerce of love ;
 Mr. GREAVES ¹⁸ is an *Ice-plant*, and cold at the heart,
 But love to his blood shall its fervours impart ;
 Miss HOPWOOD ¹⁹ is *Heart's-ease*, and long shall her swain
 Live content with his choice, nor have cause to complain ;
 A *Narcissus* is HATFIELD, ²⁰ not surely that elf
 Who lov'd to distraction his own pretty self ;
 Miss BROOKE'S ²¹ a *Moss Rose*, of all eyes the desire,
 May her charms long remain such delights to inspire ;
 TOM PARKER, ²² with flames and with arrows beset,
 The victim of Cupid, is *Love in a Net* ;
 NANCY HOLME, ²³ whose mild charms even Venus surpass,
 Is the mirror of beauty — is *Venus's Glass* ;
 TOM WHITE ²⁴ is a *Daisy*, pert, pretty and spruce,
 And far beyond those which the hedges produce ;
 A ripe *Winter Cherry* we find in Miss CROSS, ²⁵
 Where good temper gives beauty and truth adds the gloss ;
 Of WHALLEY'S ²⁶ attachments examine the list —
 'Tis a mystery still — call him *Love in a Mist* ;
 BET HOPWOOD ²⁷ comes last, but will certainly prove
 A *Myrtle of Venus*, a sprig of *True Love*.

May the county for ever with beauty be crown'd,
 And Lancashire long for such flow'rs be renown'd ;
 May each flow'r, too, be pluck'd in the midst of its bloom,
 Nor waste in the air all its precious perfume ;
 For blest are the roses distill'd in their prime,
 In their essence they'll live in defiance of time ;
 Whilst the poor virgin rose, unobserv'd and forlorn,
 Droops, withers and dies on the point of a thorn.
 When the flow'rs shall be cropp'd and no longer can shoot,
 May a crowd of young suckers arise from each root,

In pleasing succession continue to smile,
 Of our county the boast, and the pride of the isle ;
 In bonds of affection may Hymen entwist 'em,
 And each find a place in the sexual system.

¹ The origin of this graceful poem has been communicated to me by the venerable and excellent Rector of Croston, the Rev. Streynsham Master, who, at the patriarchal age of more than ninety years, retains a distinct recollection of the several individuals mentioned in it. Some of the older students of Manchester Grammar School in 1784 amused themselves by instituting a complimentary comparison between flowers and the leading young people of the county personally known to them, and sent the list to Wheeler's Manchester newspaper for insertion. This was not in verse, but simply an ingenious though meagre comparison. Wheeler considered it "too personal," and fastidiously declined printing it. Mr. Master, then a youth at the Grammar School, had a copy of the list in his possession, and afterwards showing it to his cousin, Mr. Whalley of Clerk Hill (see No. 26), that gentleman sent the copy, now before me, 1st August 1784, to Mr. Wilson, with the following request: — "On the other side you will see an effort at some Lancashire wit. The subjects, I mean the female ones, are many of them excellent, and the person who gave them to me says they are rather defective in not adding to the party Mr. Whalley and Miss Bet Hopwood. I wish, if you have leisure, you would *poeticise* the Bouquet and transmit it to me. I will be as silent as sin on the occasion; and if you chuse to complete the Bouquet by an addition of poetical flowers to the two names above mentioned, in any manner you please, you will have my thanks. I think some of the characters rather sarcastick; and if, as is suspected (but I know not on what ground), they were drawn at Hopwood, I am not surprised at it, and wonder they were not still more florid. Some of the Lancashire world suspect I had a hand in the Bouquet, but I neither ever saw or heard of it before yesterday. If you add my name it will not be amiss; and if the Bouquet was made up at Hopwood, I think in justice to Miss B. Hopwood, and her dearly beloved, my cousin James (who perhaps might have had a hand in it), she ought to give the finishing to so sweet a nosegay."

It may be noticed that each lady and gentleman are in the original MS. so bracketed as to lead to the inference that they were in some sort pledged to each other. It will be seen, however, that in most of the instances the contract was merely poetical. Mr. Wilson's first essay at including Mr. Whalley in the poem was —

"In Whalley you'll find, too, examine who list,
 That in love he's mysterious — he's *Love in a Mist*;
 And last, though not least, Betsy Hopwood will prove
 A *Myrtle of Venus*, an emblem of love.

Afterwards altered thus: —

"Of Whalley's attachment, examine the list,
 'Tis a mystery still, call him *Love in a Mist*;
 But he bows to Eliza, she'll certainly prove
 A *Myrtle of Venus*, a sprig of *True Love*."

The mystery was soon unravelled, for in the same year he married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Assheton of Middleton (see No. 26), and thereupon the lines were altered; for in an old copy of the *Bouquet* at Worden Hall, as I am informed by Miss flarington, the couplet runs —

“ call him *Love in a Mist*;
And Hopwood comes last, who will certainly prove
A *Myrtle of Venus*, a sprig of *True Love*.”

Here the poem seemed to end; but other gentlemen, feeling that there were certain favourite *belles* omitted, made additions to the MS., and celebrated the praises of Touchet, Bayley, &c., and this, it may be inferred, was not quite acceptable to Mr. Wilson, for with the copy transcribed at the time by Mr. Streynsham Master for his sister (afterwards Lady Gardiner, see No. 26), he addressed her as follows : —

“Manchester, Sept. 9, 1784.

“Intelligence having arrived from Parnassus that so many Flowers, and no more, are to be added to the *Bouquet d' Amour* I sent you, I take the liberty of transcribing and transmitting for your further amusement the endeavours of the Muse, just drawn from the fountains of Helicon, by way of CONCLUSION to the Poem (which is now as such considered complete), having a regular beginning, middle, and ending.”

Then follow the lines commencing —

“May the county for ever with beauty be crown'd,
And Lancashire long for such flow'rs be renown'd;”

which concluding stanzas are not found amongst Mr. Wilson's MS. papers, nor in any of the numerous copies which I have seen. In a letter from Miss Elizabeth Master, dated Sept. 3, 1784, to her brother, Mr. Whalley Master, then at Clitheroe School, she says : “I send you a copy of the *Lancashire Florist*, which I have copied so often that I am now quite tired.” Mr. Master's collections or rather recollections of this *Jardin des Plantes* — for, alas! the once fragrant collection has been sadly dispersed, or may it not be said, all gathered together again “each in his narrow bed,” have enabled me to supply a few brief but necessary Notes to identify the various “Flowers,” and to state that there was an accuracy, distinctiveness and precision in the floral delineation of each individual's character which imparted half its value to the poem.

² Sir William Henry Clerke Bart. the descendant of Sir John Clerke the first Baronet (1660), was born in Jamaica in 1751, instituted to the Rectory of Bury in the county of Lancaster in 1778, and died in 1818. He married in 1792 Byzantia, daughter of Thomas Cartwright of Aynhoe in the county of Northampton Esq. and his son and successor Sir William Henry is the ninth Baronet. Sir William was a benevolent and easy landlord, and his affairs becoming embarrassed, he left Bury long before his death. Like many worthy clergymen he was afflicted with the disease of quackery, and publicly advertised his philanthropic intention of attending Rochdale, Bolton, and other large towns on stated days, in order to vaccinate the children of the poor to preserve them from the prevalent scourge of smallpox; and he regularly prepared and dispensed cathartics and other domestic medicines for the indigent. When he took these crusading excursions, old Sir Robert Peel used to observe that

"Sir William was gone a-bucaneering — (*Buchan-eering*). His object was to benefit the poor, but he sometimes, unintentionally, benefited the faculty, which probably led him to say to his old steward, Mr. Whitehead, "I am going out of fashion," an observation made long afterwards by Dr. Matthew Baillie. It deserves to be named to his honour that he was one of the earliest advocates of popular sanitary measures, and that he published in 1790 a pamphlet entitled "Thoughts on the means of preserving the health of the poor by prevention and suppression of epidemical fevers, addressed to the inhabitants of the town of Manchester and the several populous trading towns surrounding and connected with it." His great ally was Dr. Percival.

³ Anne, eldest daughter of Sir John Parker Mosley of Ancoats Hall in the county of Lancaster and of Rolleston Park in the county of Stafford Bart. born in 1763, married Robert ffelden (of the Witton and Feniscowles family) of Didsbury and of the Inner Temple Esq. and died 27th March 1810, æt. 47, leaving issue three sons: — the Rev. Robert Mosley ffelden, Rector of Bebington in the county of Chester; 2. the Rev. Henry J. ffelden, Rector of Kirk Langley in the county of Derby; 3. the Rev. Oswald ffelden, Rector of Weston under Lizard in the county of Stafford. Mr. ffelden married secondly Sarah, daughter of Charles and sister of "Tom White" (No. 24). He ob. September 6th 1830, æt. 69. She ob. 23rd January 1850, æt. 84. On his tomb in Didsbury Church yard he is described as "the only grandson and heir of Richard Broome of Didsbury Esq." and on his marble monument in the church as "an active magistrate of the counties of Lancaster and Chester."

⁴ William Bamford of Bamford Esq., son of William Bamford of Tarleton Esq. born there October 28th 1760, admitted a pupil of Manchester Grammar School June 26th 1776, succeeded in 1779 by devise to the Bamford and Davenport estates, married August 3rd 1786, Anna, daughter of Thomas Blackburne of Orford Hall and Hale Esq., by his wife Ireland, daughter and coheiress of Isaac Green of Childwall and Hale Esq. He died in 1806 s.p.m., when Bamford passed to Robert Hesketh of Upton in Cheshire, who by sign manual assumed the surname of Bamford, and was grandfather of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh of Gwyrch Castle in the county of Denbigh Esq.

⁵ Diana Susanna, elder sister of the Rev. Sir W. H. Clerke Bart., and afterwards the wife of the Rev. Edward Willes M.A. Rector of Newbold in the county of Warwick.

⁶ Sir Frank Standish of Duxbury Bart., born 1738, succeeded his grandfather Sir Thomas Standish, the second Baronet, in December 1756, and died a bachelor May 16th 1812, when the title became extinct.

⁷ Susanna, daughter of Francis Clerke Esq. and younger sister of the Rev. Sir William H. Clerke, the Rector of Bury, born 1752, married October 18th 1805 Sir Robert Peel Bart. She was his second wife, and died September 19th 1824, in her seventy-second year, without issue.

⁸ Sir John Whalley Smythe Gardiner, eldest son of Robert Whalley M.D. (uncle of Mr. Starky of Heywood, No. 10), by his wife Grace, sole child of Bernard Gardiner D.D., and heiress apparent of her cousin, Sir William Gardiner of Roche Court Bart. (title extinct). He was born May 26th 1743, and on succeeding to the estates of Sir William Gardiner in 1779, assumed the name and arms of Gardiner, and was created

a Baronet in 1783. He married Martha, sole daughter of Benjamin Newcome D.D., Dean of Rochester, and ob. in 1797, s.p.

⁹ Dorothy, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Lever M.A. second son of Sir Darcy Lever of Alkington Knt. LL.D. was born January 30, 1767. On October 4, 1797, she was the Lady Patroness of the Manchester Grammar School Festival, the Stewards being the Rev. G. Leigh (deputy for Trafford Leigh Trafford Esq.), and Peter Rasbotham Esq. She married Peter Rasbotham Esq., eldest son of Dorning Rasbotham of Birch House Esq., the antiquary, and her son ultimately succeeded by devise to the Alkington estates.

¹⁰ James, son of John Starky of Heywood Hall Esq., by his wife Esther, daughter of John Whalley of Blackburn Esq. was born September 8, 1762, sheriff of Lancashire 1791, vacated Heywood Hall, and lived at Fell Foot in the county of Cumberland. He died at Hopwood, and was buried at Heywood in November 1846, æt. 84, having married Elizabeth (born 1st November 1767), second daughter of Edward Gregge Hopwood of Hopwood Esq. September 3rd, 1785. She died at Fell Foot 23rd August 1835, having been married fifty years, and was buried at Heywood, where there is a marble monument to her memory. Having no issue the Heywood estate passed by her husband's will to his cousins, Mrs. Hornby and Mrs. Langton.

¹¹ Lady Gardiner, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Master of Croston. (See No. 26.)

¹² William Hulton of Hulton Park Esq., the head of an ancient and distinguished family, was born 28th May 1762, sheriff of Lancashire 1789, married in 1783 Jane, third daughter of Peter Brooke of Mere Hall in the county of Chester Esq. He died 24th June 1800, leaving surviving issue a son and a daughter. His relict re-married Lieutenant Thomas William Tyrrell Boyce, 16th Light Dragoons.

¹³ See p. 60, *Note 6*, ante.

¹⁴ Thomas Johnson was born in Manchester in 1745, and only son of Thomas Johnson of Tyldesley and Manchester Esq. (sheriff of Lancashire in 1755) by his wife Susanna, daughter and coheir of Samuel Wareing of Bury and Walmersley Esq. He is mentioned in the lists of the Grammar School of Manchester as entering its higher division in 1754, and the flourishing state of the school at this time may be shown by stating that he had pleasure in remembering, as his class-fellows, John Arden of Harden Esq., his brother Lord Alvanley, John Lord Crewe, Dean Jackson of Christ Church, and Lowten the celebrated conveyancer. A fine personal appearance and manners finished by foreign travel gave Mr. Johnson an animated air in social convivialities and ball-room festivities, known far beyond his local sphere, and still remembered; but when the time required, severer energy and self-devotion were always at the service of the public. In evidence of this may be mentioned his efforts in the American war, when in 1777 it was proposed by the principal gentry of the town and neighbourhood to raise a regiment in aid of government, and Mr. Johnson was one of the committee deputed to present the address to the throne. Passing over his exertions when joined with Sir Ashton Lever and Captain Aytoun in recruiting, a further aid, requisite but unexpected, may be mentioned. In the spring of 1778 (as by the order book now at Sedbury) the funds were deemed insufficient, and his

offer to control the accounts and payments of the bankers in conjunction with Messrs. Houghton and Stevenson of Manchester being accepted, the result was successful, the regiment was completed, and public thanks returned on July 24th to him and his last-mentioned coadjutors. Intermediately, however, a characteristic circumstance had occurred. At the royal inspection of the new regiment on Coxheath in the spring of 1778, Sir Thomas Egerton (afterwards Earl of Wilton) as chairman of the committee had placed Mr. Johnson in front of the line for presentation as the prime promoter of the completed arrangements. It was intimated at the same time, in answer to his inquiry, that, from principles of court etiquette, his two coadjutors could not share the honour, and with feelings analogous to those which he manifested through life, he instantly quitted his honourable position and retired. Loyal exertions in the war with revolutionary France may be added, and subscriptions, general and local, contributed to an extent disproportionate even to his ample means. In similar devotion to local usefulness his superintendence of one of the principal charities of Manchester (Clarke's charity) raised the income seven fold between 1798, the year when his brother trustees permitted his direction, and the close of 1823, when the writer, as his executor, restored the books and papers. To this may be added constant beneficence to the town which had risen on his estate of Tyldesley, where the erection of a church by the national commissioners had commenced, on a site given by him shortly before his death on December 14, 1823. Within the chancel of this fabric a memorial window and monument commemorate himself and his immediate predecessors.—GEO. O.

¹⁵ See p. 61, *Note 7*, ante.

¹⁶ William Hill of Blythe Hall near Ormskirk, and afterwards of Croston Lodge, both in this county Esq., brother of Mrs. Henry Feilden of Witton Park. He sold Blythe Hall about the year 1805 to Thomas Langton of Kirkham Esq. It is now the property of Lord Skelmersdale. Mr. Hill was the proprietor of the famous specific for hydrophobia, known throughout Lancashire as the "Ormskirk medicine."

¹⁷ Ann, daughter of Joseph Starky of Redvales near Bury Esq. M.D. Oxon. and sister and coheirress of her brother Captain Joseph Starky of the 16th Regiment (who married Mary, daughter of Sir Joseph Radclyffe of Royton Bart. but s.p.) She was born in 1768, and married 9th August 1792 the Rev. Hugh Hornby M.A. vicar of St. Michael's-on-Wyre. She died on the 19th November 1850, æt. 81. She was first cousin and, with her sister Mrs. Langton, a coheirress of Mr. Starky of Heywood. (See No. 10 ante.)

¹⁸ Edward Greaves of Culcheth Hall in Newton in the county of Lancaster, and of Nettleworth Hall in the county of Nottingham Esq., eldest son of Edward Greaves Esq. and of his wife Martha, daughter of Sir Darcy Lever Knt., was born in 1762, succeeded his father in February 1783, sheriff of Lancashire in 1812, and dying 29th March 1824 æt. 62, was buried within the Collegiate Church of Manchester, where there is a monument to his memory erected by his widow Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Thomas Bower of Ewenac in the county of Dorset Esq., to whom he was married April 2, 1791.—*Lanc. MSS.* vol. vi. p. 234.

¹⁹ Mary, eldest daughter of Edward Gregge Hopwood of Hopwood Esq., born

10th September 1766, and died unmarried in 1841. She was the elder sister of Mrs. Starky. (See No. 10 ante.)

²⁰ William, son of the Rev. John Hatfield, incumbent of Mellor in the county of Derby. He was commonly called "Count Hatfield," a Manchester fop, and still remembered as being the first gentleman who, at least in this part of the country, wore a white hat. He was educated at the Grammar School, Manchester.

²¹ See p. 61, *Note 8*, ante.

²² Thomas Townley Parker Esq., the first husband of "the Moss Rose," was baptised at Leyland 21st December 1760, succeeded to the estates on the decease of his elder brother Banastre Parker Esq. in 1788, was sheriff of Lancashire in 1793, and was buried at Leyland 24th January 1794, being succeeded by his only son (born 27th August and baptised at Leyland October 16, 1793) Robert Townley Parker Esq. M.P. of Cuerden Hall.

²³ Anne, second daughter of the Rev. Thomas Holme of Upholland House in the county of Lancaster, and sister of Meyrick Holme, who assumed the surname of Bankes on inheriting Winstanley (in right of his grandmother Anne Bankes, eventually sole heiress of the Bankes's of Winstanley Hall), married 10th November 1800, the Rev. George Borlase, son of the Rev. William Borlase LL.D. F.R.S. the learned author of the *Natural History of Cornwall*, &c. Mr. Borlase was senior Fellow and Tutor of St. Peter's College Cambridge, B.A. 1764, M.A. 1767, B.D. 1780, Casuistical Professor 1788, and Registrar of the University. He died at his Rectory House at Newton in Suffolk (presented 1789) after a few days' illness November 7th 1809, s.p. She was his second wife, and ob. 1844.

²⁴ Thomas White of Manchester Esq. M.D., eldest son of Charles White of Sale Hall in the county of Chester F.R.S., the celebrated surgeon. He was admitted a scholar of Manchester Grammar School January 16th 1771, and October 5th 1791 the stewards of the School Festival were Rev. John Holmes D.D. Rector of Whitechapel, and Thomas White M.D. Miss Atherton (afterwards Lady Lilford) was the Lady Patroness. He was father of John White Esq. famous for his fox-hunting exploits. For a Life of Charles White, by Mr. Thomas Henry, see *Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester*, vol. iii. N.S., also Ormerod's *Cheshire*, vol. i. pp. 421-423. There is an engraved portrait of him in Gregson's *Fragments*.

²⁵ Margaret, youngest of the three daughters of Thomas Crosse of Crosse Hall in Chorley, and of Shaw Hill in the county of Lancaster Esq., and aunt of Richard Crosse, who, on succeeding to the estates of his cousin, Charles Legh of Adlington in the county of Chester Esq., assumed the surname and arms of Legh, was married at Penwortham in 1792-3 to the Rev. James Armetriding M.A. Rector of Steeple Aston in the county of Oxon. He died 9th March 1832, æt. 85, having been Rector of that parish 42 years. His wife died 31st August in the same year, and their youngest daughter married the Rev. Richard Gresswell B.D. Fellow and Tutor of Worcester College, Oxford, the benefactor of Denton, near Manchester. In the Worden Hall copy, the second line of this couplet is—

"When good humour gives beauty and health aids the gloss."

²⁶ James Whalley Esq. succeeded to the Baronetcy in 1797, on the death of his elder brother, Sir John Whalley Smythe Gardiner. He was born in 1748, of Magdalen College Oxon, M.A. 1762, and of the Middle Temple. He married first at Middleton October 29th 1784, Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. Richard Assheton D.D. Warden of Manchester and Rector of Middleton. She died September 8th 1785, æt. 24, leaving issue one child, who succeeded his father as the third baronet. See the exquisite lines inscribed on her monument in Whalley Church. Her husband married secondly December 3rd 1789, his cousin Jane, daughter of the Rev. Robert Master D.D. Rector of Croston (by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Whalley of Blackburn Esq., brother of Robert Whalley M.D. (see No. 8), and died August 21st 1805. Lady Gardiner ob. at Clerk Hill in 1843.

²⁷ Elizabeth Hopwood became Mrs. Starky September 3rd 1785. (See No. 10 ante.)

ADDITIONS BY MESSRS. MASTER AND FORD.

The *White Rock*, where elegance happily plays,
In SEDGWICK ¹ its beauties profusely displays;
And BIRCH'S ² accomplishments surely can't fail,
Who reigns the fair *Lily*, the Queen of the Vale.

S. M.³

As the thorns of the *Rose* by its fragrance are veil'd,
So is BAYLEY'S ⁴ sharp wit in politeness conceal'd,
Miss TOUCHET'S ⁵ a *Sensitive*, where you will find
A sweetness of temper with mildness combin'd.

J. F.⁶

To ALICIA ⁷ ———.

WITH A MS. COPY OF "THE LANCASHIRE BOUQUET."

When Hermes, the herald to Joy's happy bowers,
Had deliver'd to Venus his Lancashire flowers,
Cries Love's rosy Queen, — "What a charming collection!
"Yes, Cupid has taste to distinguish perfection:
"Here's my Glass; my Carnation so sweetly that blows;
"My Myrtle; my Heart's-ease; my Willow, and Rose;

"My dear Mignonnette; my Adonis, whose charms
 "Were inspir'd by my breath and were form'd in my arms;
 "With my Balsam; my Daisy; and all my gay crew;
 "Who'd have thought a blind archer could e'er shoot so true!
 "Yet the urchin's been partial — ah me! I'm afraid
 "His own heart is enthrall'd — he's the dupe of his trade;
 "Else whence⁸ this so fond predilection of beauty?
 "Whence this constant attendance on fav'rite duty?
 "Shall PETERS, though born admiration t' enjoy,
 "The pride of each tongue and delight of each eye,
 "And FIELDEN, that mirror of graces, alone
 "Be the forms that are clasp'd with poetical zone?
 "Shall WHITE, lovely *Snowdrop*, whose innocent breast
 "Is the haunt where love, virtue, and elegance rest —
 "Shall PHILIPS, that *Primrose*, whose spring has foretold
 "Those charms that shall summer and blossom in gold —
 "Shall ANGLE, that fragrant *Geranium*, be slighted?
 "Shall these, all my own,⁹ be in rhyme unended?
 "Shall the *Lychnis*, the five sister nymphs, ne'er receive
 "That homage which praise to her BORRONS would give?¹⁰
 "Forbid it, ye Powers! ah! forbid it, ye Nine!
 "Join your harps to their fame in your concerts divine.
 "Shall HARDMAN, who erst, as encradl'd she lay,
 "Receiv'd the bright warmth of my fost'ring ray —
 "Shall she, beauty's *Passion Flower*, where glows refin'd
 "Sensibility's delicate lustre of mind —
 "Shall she lose that acclaim which her merit inspires,
 "Now health from her cheeks with her roses retires?
 "Ah no! come, ye Muses! come, Phœbus! and throw
 "Thy chaplet of roses t' encircle her brow;
 "Depicture in verse ev'ry flow'ret that's there,
 "Let her shine still the fairest of Lancashire fair.
 "— And hark! 'tis the Naiads of Bristol that raise
 "Their chorus of joy in the accents of praise;

“This bright sun of beauty, they cry, will be ours,
 “Health shall wait as her handmaid, and Joy trim her bow’rs;
 “Far shall envy, and pain, and pale languor be driv’n,
 “Her sleep shall be rapture, her day shall be heav’n.”

Thus Venus — when Hermes, scarce looking behind,
 Wing’d away to the earth on the pinions of wind,
 Enlarg’d on each tittle from Venus that fell,
 How she sneer’d at this beauty, bespatter’d that belle;
 In short, that his godship had got into danger,
 That Venus had threat’ned to whip the young ranger;
 And advis’d, as his mother no slight could e’er brook,
 To regain her affections by hook or by crook.

’Twas agreed, in all haste round the country he flies,
 Petitioning Flora for varied supplies,
 From ev’ry gay border collecting his posies,
 His Laurels, his Cowslips, Pinks, Lilies and Roses,
 ’Till that crown should be form’d whose rich splendour should¹¹
 shine

Through Britain, dispensing their radiance divine;
 Enforcing all hearts to allow — nought surpasses
 The witcheries found in our Lancashire lasses,
 Since the pow’rs they exert are all drawn from above,
 Through the sanction of Venus and fiat of love.

¹ Miss Sedgwick was a daughter of Roger Sedgwick Esq. M.D. of Manchester, and aunt of Colonel Sedgwick of Dutton Hall near Chester — See ped. *Barritt’s MSS.*

² Ann, daughter of Mr. Birch of Birch Hall and of Ardwick, of an ancient Lancashire family. She succeeded to estates at Ardwick and Gorton on the death of her brother, General Birch, and dying unmarried at Lancaster about 1826, her property passed to her heir-at-law, Mr. Jackson. The family was distinct from that long seated at Birch in Rusholme

³ Streyntsham Master, now Rector of Croston, eldest son of the Rev. Dr. Master, was born 10th June 1766, educated at the Grammar School of Manchester by Mr. Lawson, admitted a pupil there August 29th 1777, afterwards of Balliol College Oxon. M.A. 1791. He married in 1790 Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Parker Mosley Bart. and has issue, *inter alia*, the Venerable Robert Mosley Master M.A. Arch-deacon of Manchester.

⁴ Miss Bayley was a daughter of Thomas Butterworth Bayley of Hope Esq. F.R.S. Chairman of the Manchester Quarter Sessions and Constable of Lancaster Castle, who at his death in 1802 left twelve children, of whom Sir Daniel Bayley, Consul General at St. Petersburg, was the eldest, and Archdeacon Bayley another son. See *Memoirs* by his son H. V. Bayley, 4to, Manchester, 1802, and *Gent. Mag.* vol. lxxii.

⁵ Sarah, one of the five daughters of James Touchet of Broome House and of King Street Manchester Esq., by his wife Miss Wilkinson of Chesterfield. She died unmarried in 18—. The only sister who married was Esther, wife of the Venerable Henry Bayley D.D. Archdeacon of Ely. Their brother, John Touchet Esq., by his wife, Miss Colquitt, had two coheirresses, one of whom married James Nowell Harrington of Worden Hall Esq.

⁶ John, only son of Charles Ford of Manchester and Claremont Esq. (Boroughreeve in 1766) by his wife Anne, daughter of Thomas Johnson of Tyldesley and Manchester Esq., by his first wife, Ann Sudall, was born in Manchester February 23rd 1768. His education at the Grammar School of Manchester, where he was admitted July 9th 1781, was preceded by the private tutorage of the Rev. John Bennett of St. Mary's in that town. Afterwards he was a Commoner of Balliol College Oxford, and after passing his examination for B.A., took the gown of S.J.C. but not a regular degree. In 1796 he married at Staindrop Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Ingram of Wakefield Esq., and shortly afterwards accepted the command of the Manchester Light Horse Volunteers, and continued to be their commandant when they were presented with standards by his maternal uncle, Thomas Johnson Esq. in 1798; and after this, when he had fixed his residence on his paternal estate at Abbeyfield in Cheshire, he accepted the Colonelcy of the Sandbach Light Infantry. In his early days he kept up extended society with the families of Lancashire and Cheshire, with many of whom he was connected by relationship (see *Assheton's Journal*, p. 79), was known as one of the active magistrates of the former county, and declining the honour of a Baronetcy which had been offered to him, died at his house of Abbeyfield, April 14th, 1839 and was buried at Sandbach. A monument is erected in the parish church of Sandbach to his memory.

⁷ These beautiful lines are found in vol. vii. p. 27, et seq. of *Manchester MS. Poetry*, dated October 12th 1784, in the handwriting of the Rev. John Haddon Hindley, and although they closely resemble Mr. Wilson's style, were probably the composition of Mr. Hindley. They were addressed to "Alicia, with Mr. Wilson's celebrated Bouquet of Lancashire Flowers." The lady to whom they were sent was Alice, daughter of John Hardman Esq., Boroughreeve of Manchester in 1764, and sister of Mr. William Hardman of Quay Street. The rare collection of paintings and valuable works of art of her nephew, Thomas Hardman Esq. of Quay Street (Boroughreeve), was dispersed at his death. Miss Hardman married Edward Coulson Esq., an alderman of Hull and dying in 1825 without leaving issue, was buried at Kirkella. She is still remembered as having retained in advanced age many of the personal charms celebrated by the poets in her youth. Miss White was daughter of Charles White the surgeon; Miss Philips, a member of an opulent and wide-spreading Manchester family; Miss

Angle [Allen?] is quite forgotten; and of the five Miss Borrons, daughters of James Borron Esq. of "The Palace" in Market Street, were Mrs. Richard ffarington of Parr's Wood, Mrs. Henry ffarington of Ardwick, and Mrs. Fielding of Myerscough Hall.

⁸ why, in vol. vii. p. 27, *Manchester MS. Poetry*.

⁹ Shall this triad of charms be in rhyme unended? *Ibid.* p. 29.

¹⁰ This couplet omitted. *Ibid.* The allusion is to Darwin's *Loves of the Plants*:

"Five sister nymphs to join Diana's train,

With thee, fair LYCHNIS! vow, — but vow in vain.

Darwin's *Botanic Garden*, part ii. p. 12, third edition, 4to.

¹¹ would.

XXVII. — FUIMUS TROES.

AN EPISTLE.

WHEREAS you've presum'd, but without any reason,
To commit against Friendship an act of high treason,
In Easter week next you're requir'd to show cause
For the breach and contempt of civility's laws;
For at Easter depend on't to come I won't fail,
To meet you with gunpowder,¹ brandy, or ale:
Whate'er is your choice, then, make ready your barrel,
And patch up your friendship or stand to your quarrel.
Thus requir'd, at your peril fail not to explain
What maggot now lurks in your whimsical brain;
Not design'd for moving the knee's supple hinge,
To hang on the great or subsist by a cringe,
You can't at their biddings your friendships lay down,
Or take up their quarrels and call them your own;
For none would do that but a knave or a fool,
A gossiping cypher or toad-eating tool:
This can't be the case, — so there must be at bottom
Some other dark reasons, wherever you got 'em.

Like a man, then, explain why so shy and uncivil,
 Speak out like a man and defy e'en the devil;
 For I'll give to all mortals whate'er is their due,
 And am always prepar'd for the devil and you !
 But to argue the matter I scarcely have time,
 And instead of strong reason I give you weak rhyme.

As I choose of this bus'ness to make a good *end*,
 This message by Brennand your neighbour I send,
 Who, rather than suffer our friendship to fall,
 Will *cobble* it up, or dispose of his *awl*.²

¹ O'er gunpowder, i.e. tea; *var. lect.*

² See p. 31, ante.

XXVIII. — HORACE, ODE XIV. (BOOK I.) IMITATED.

WRITTEN DURING THE AMERICAN WAR.

Oh, gallant ship, that o'er the tide
 Did'st once in pompous triumph ride,
 What tempests round thee rise !
 Oh, bid the swelling surges cease,
 By pouring in the oil of peace ;
 Be brave, but yet be wise.

Faction prevails amongst thy crew ;
 Thy real friends, alas ! are few
 To steer thy dang'rous course ;
 The Western storms thy masts assail,
 Thy sail yards, groaning to the gale,
 Confess its matchless force.

The sinews of thy strength, the ropes,
On which depend thy sanguine hopes,
 Are by the tempest broke ;
Thy batter'd hulk begins to reel,
Though resting on the strongest keel,
 And yields at every stroke.

In vain thou spread'st thy tatter'd sails
To court and catch the fav'ring gales,
 No fav'ring gales are thine ;
No guardian angels bid thee speed,
But leave thee at thy utmost need,
 At fortune to repine.

In vain their boast who proudly talk
And call thee British heart of oak
 From Whittlebury Wood ;
For nought avails thy birth and form
When struck with light'ning, toss'd by storm,
 Or swallow'd by the flood.

The prudent sailor won't rely
On flags or pendants waving high,
 Their use he can't discern ;
In vain, when storms around him roar,
Will he the painted gods implore
 That ride upon the storm.

We caution now thy first resort,
Lest thou, of ev'ry wind the sport,
 On shallows should'st be tost ;
Beware of Spanish guile and pride
With Gallie perfidy allied,
 Beware the Belgic coast.

The Western clouds terrific scowl,
The war whoop, hark ! and Irish howl
Come flying in the gales ;
Thy needle varies from the North,
Fresh dangers call new dangers forth,
And wild dismay prevails.

With pity throbs each patriot breast,
While thus with num'rous ills opprest
Thou'rt rushing on the rocks ;
In silent woe thou may'st complain,
Like a fat goose upon the main
Protected by the Fox !

XXIX. — THE TOPER'S PLEA FOR DRINKING.

If life, like a bubble, evaporates fast,
We must take off our wine and the bubble will last ;
For a bubble may soon be destroy'd with a puff
If it is not kept floating in liquor enough.

If life's like a flow'r, as grave moralists say,
'Tis a very good thing understood the right way ;
For if life's like a flow'r, even blockheads can tell
If you'd have it look fresh you must water it well.

That life is a journey no mortal disputes,
So their brains they will liquor instead of their boots ;
And each toper will own, on life's road as he reels,
That a spur in the head is worth two on the heels.

If life's like a lamp, — then, to make it shine brighter,
They assign to Madeira the post of lamplighter ;
They cherish the flame with Oporto so stout,
And drink ardent spirits till fairly burnt out.

This life to a theatre liken'd has been,
Where each has assign'd him a part in the scene ;
If 'tis theirs to be tipsy, 'tis matter of fact
That the faster they guzzle the better they act.

Life, 'tis said, like a dream or a vision appears,
Where some laugh in their slumbers and others shed tears ;
But of toppers, when wak'd from their dream, 'twill be said
That the tears of the tankard were all that they shed.

XXX. — THE BIRCH.

SPOKEN BEFORE THE GOVERNORS OF CLITHEROE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
ON THE 24TH OF JUNE.

THOUGH the oak be the prince and the pride of the grove,
An emblem of pow'r and the fav'rite of Jove ;
Though Phœbus with laurel his temples has bound,
And with chaplets of poplar Alcides is crown'd ;
Though Pallas the olive has grac'd with her choice,
And mother Cybèle in pines may rejoice ;
Though Bacchus delights in the ivy and vine,
And Venus her garlands with myrtle entwine ;
Yet the Muses declare, after diligent search,
No tree can be found to compare with the Birch.
The Birch, they declare, is the true tree of knowledge,
Rever'd by each school and remember'd at college.

Though Virgil's fam'd tree might produce as its fruit
 A crop of vain dreams and strange whims from each shoot,
 Yet the Birch on each bough, on the top of each switch,
 Bears the essence of grammar, the eight parts of speech ;
 'Mongst the leaves are conceal'd more than mem'ry can mention,
 All cases, all genders, and forms of declension.

Nine branches, when cropp'd by the hands of the Nine,
 And duly arrang'd in a parallel line,
 Tied up in nine folds of a mystical string,
 Then soak'd for nine days in cold Helicon's spring,
 A sceptre compose for a pedagogue's hand,
 Like the fasces of Rome, a true badge of command.

The sceptre thus finish'd, like Moses's rod,
 From flint can draw tears and give life to a clod.
 Should darkness Egyptian or ignorance spread
 Their clouds o'er the mind or envelope the head,
 This rod thrice applied puts the darkness to flight,
 Disperses the clouds and restores us to light ;
 Like the *virga divina*, 'twill find out the vein
 Where lurks the rich metal, the gold of the brain.
 Should genius a captive by sloth be confin'd,
 Or the witchcraft of pleasure prevail o'er the mind,
 This magical wand but apply, — with a stroke
 The spell is dissolv'd, the enchantment is broke.

Like Hermes's rod, these few switches inspire
 Rhetorical thunder and poetry's fire ;
 If Morpheus our temples in Lethe should steep,
 These switches untie all the fetters of sleep.

Here dwells strong conviction, of logic the glory,
 When 'tis us'd with precision *à posteriori* :
 If Nature be slow 'tis the Birch must assist her,
 For science works upwards when giv'n as a clyster :
 I've known a short lecture most strongly prevail
 When duly applied to the head through the tail ;

Like th' electrical shock, in an instant 'tis spread,
 And flies with a jerk from the tail to the head,
 Promotes circulation and thrills through each vein,
 The faculties quickens and purges the brain;
 By sympathy thus and consent of the parts
 We're taught fundamentally Classics and Arts.

The Birch, *à priori*, applied to the palm,
 Will settle disputes or a passion becalm;
 Whatever disorders prevail in the blood,
 The Birch can correct them like guaiacum wood;
 It sweetens the juices, corrects our ill humours,
 Bad habits removes and discusses foul tumours;
 When applied to the hand it can cure with a switch,
 Like the salve of old Molyneux us'd in the itch.

As the fam'd rod of Circe to brutes could change men,
 So the twigs of the Birch can unbrute them again.

Like the rod of the Sybil, that branch of pure gold,
 These twigs can the gates of Elysium unfold,
 That Elysium of learning where pleasures abound,
 Those sweets that still flourish on classical ground.

Prometheus's rod, which, Mythologists say,
 Fetch'd fire from the sun to give life to his clay,
 Was a Birch well applied his new men to inspire
 With taste for the Arts, and their genius to fire.

This bundle of rods may suggest this reflection;
 That the Arts with each other maintain a connection:
 Another good moral this bundle of switches
 Points out to our notice and silently teaches;
 For as things well united can scarcely be broken,
 Of peace and good neighbourhood these are a token:
 Then, if such are its virtues, we'll bow to the tree,
 And the Birch, like the Muses, immortal shall be.

XXXI. — AN EPIGRAM.

DULL wits on windows write : — thus Wilson spoke —
Then, if you crack the glass, you'll crack a joke ;
Your stupid jests much point and sharpness gain,
And cut more keenly when you've broke the pane.

XXXII. — THE CHAPTER OF PROVERBS.

BUONAPARTE, the bully, resolves to come over
With flat-bottom'd wherries from Calais to Dover ;
No perils to him in the billows are found,
For "if born to be hanged he can never be drown'd."

From a Corsican dunghill this fungus did spring,
He was soon made a captain, and would be a king ;
But the higher he rises his conduct's more evil,
For "a beggar on horseback will ride to the d——."

To seize all we have and then clap us in jail,
To devour all our victuals and drink up our ale,
And to grind us to dust, is the Corsican's will,
For they say "all is grist that e'er comes to his mill."

To stay quiet at home that great hero can't bear,
Or perhaps "he would have other fish to fry there,"
So as fish of that sort does not suit his desire,
"He leaps out of the frying-pan into the fire."

He builds barges and cock-boats and craft without end,
And numbers the host which to England he'll send,
But in spite of his craft and in spite of his boast,
"He reckons, 'tis true, but 'tis not with his host."

He rides upon France, and he tramples on Spain,
And Holland and Italy holds in a chain;
He says Britain he'll conquer, and still understands
"That one bird in the bush is worth four in his hands."

He trusts that his luck will all danger expel,
"But the pitcher is broke which goes oft to the well,"
And when our brave soldiers this bully surround,
"Though he's thought penny-wise he'll pound-foolish be found."

France cannot forget that our fathers of yore
Used to pepper and baste her at sea and on shore,
And we'll speedily prove to this mock Alexander
"What was sauce for the goose will be sauce for the gander."

I have heard and I've read in a great many books
Half the Frenchmen are tailors and t'other half cooks;
We've trimmings in store for the knights of the cloth,
"And the cooks that come here will but spoil their own broth."

It is said that the French are a numerous race,
And perhaps it is true, for "ill weeds grow apace;"
But come when they will and as many as dare,
"I suspect they'll arrive the day after the fair."

To invade us more safely these warriors boast
They will wait till a storm drive our fleet from their coast;
That 'twill be "an ill wind" will be soon understood,
For a wind that blows Frenchmen "blows nobody good."

They would treat Britain worse than they've treated Mynheer,
But they'll find that "they've got the wrong sow by the ear;"
Let them come, then, in swarms, by this Corsican led,
And I'll warrant we'll "hit the right nail on the head."

XXXIII. — AN EPIGRAM.

ONE day the surveyor, with a sigh and a groan,
Said, "Doctor, I'm dying of gravel and stone."
The doctor replied: "This is true, then, though odd,
What kills a surveyor is a cure for a road."

XXXIV. — PATRIOTISM.

DEAR is the tie that links the anxious sire
To the fond babe that prattles round his fire;
Dear is the love that prompts the gen'rous youth
His sire's fond cares and drooping age to sooth;
Dear is the brother, sister, husband, wife,
Dear all the charities of social life;
Nor wants firm friendship holy wreaths to bind
In mutual sympathy the faithful mind.
But not th' endearing springs that fondly move
To filial duty or parental love,—
Not all the ties that kindred bosoms bind,—
Not all in friendship's holy wreaths entwin'd,
Are half so dear, so potent to control
The gen'rous workings of the patriot's soul,

As is that holy voice that cancels all
 Those ties, that bids him for his country fall :
 At this high summons, with undaunted zeal
 He bares his breast, invites th' impending steel,
 Smiles at the hand that deals the fatal blow,
 Nor heaves one sigh for all he leaves below.
 But poor his triumph and disgrac'd his name
 Who draws his sword for empire, wealth, or fame ;
 For him, though wealth be blown in ev'ry wind,
 Though fame announce him mightiest of mankind,
 Though twice ten nations crouch'd beneath his blade,
 Virtue disowns him and his glories fade ;
 For him no pray'rs are pour'd, no pæans sung,
 No blessings chanted from a nation's tongue.

XXXV. — IMITATION OF HORACE.

LIB. IV. ODE III.

THE wight on whom the Muse has smil'd
 And mark'd him for her fav'rite child,
 Well pleased with his condition,
 Will never run from place to place
 To see a bull-bait or a race, —
 These suit not his ambition.

He'll ne'er behind a counter stand
 With cloth-yard waving in his hand,
 Or thank you for your custom ;
 Nor will he, if intestine jars
 Should ripen into civil wars,
 Endeavour to adjust 'em.

He'd ne'er into the army go
To fight with folks he did not know
 And risk both life and morals ;
Abroad he'd never wish to roam
In hopes at last of bringing home
 A wooden leg and laurels.

If at the desk th' enraptur'd spark
Should sit as an attorney's clerk,
 The Muse his business crossing
With rhymes he would his parchment fill,
And write a sonnet for a will,
 And stanzas for engrossing.

He loves where Ribble winds his way
With solitary steps to stray,
 And poetry rehearses ;
Or else he'll over Salt Hill go,
Or, murmuring, saunter round Cop-low,
 And beat his brains for verses.

If in the town he's rais'd to fame,
And honour'd with a poet's name,
 His fortune's made for ever ;
For, if his townsmen call him Bard,
He surely gets his full reward,
 Should he be e'er so clever.

As happy, then, as happiest kings,
He'll write them posies for their rings,
 Enigmas, odes, nay more yet,
With epigrams he'll make them laugh,
And write them each an epitaph,
 In hopes to be their Laureat.

O Muse! thou cans't make fiddle-strings
 Of nasty guts and other things
 Enough to make a Jew sick;
 Thou cans't from nature's filthiest parts
 Draw sounds that can affect our hearts
 And fetch the best of music.

If in thy art such powers are found,
 What wonder in Bœotian ground
 Thou deign'st sometimes to show it;
 This honour, then, to thee we owe,
 If people cry where'er we go, —
 There goes the Clitheroe Poet!

XXXVI. — A NEW SONG.

Tune — "HEARTS OF OAK."

YE sons of true courage with courage advance,
 Revenge the mean insults of Spain and of France,
 'Tis your country that calls; then with cheerfulness come,
 Let your hearts beat in concert with fife and with drum.

'Tis LISTER invites you; like Britain's true sons
 Exhibit that spirit
 Which Britons inherit,
 And maul the Monsieurs, boys, and pepper the Dons!

If they dare to invade us, why, let them come o'er,
 We'll give them, like Britons, a welcome on shore;
 In time past we've drubb'd them, for pastime again
 We'll drub them, and prove that their threats are all vain.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

See the Lion of England from sleep now awakes,
His paws he prepares and his mane how he shakes !
With eyes full of fury behold him advance,
Resolv'd to tread down the pale lilies of France.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

If they come we'll prepare them an old English treat —
Of fighting a surfeit, but nothing to eat ;
Of true British spirit they'll drink to their cost,
And for roast-beef of England their ribs we will roast.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

Instead of soup-meagre, on which they are fed,
We'll give them saltpetre and forc'd-meat of lead ;
Since of capers they're fond, let these monkeys of France
Be taught to some tune, boys, the old English dance.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

Since of fashions they're fond we their jerkins will trim,
And pink, dress and baste all their bodies so slim ;
We'll sell them cheap bargains of old English stuffs,
And their sleeves we'll improve, boys, by adding of cuffs.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

To play them a rubber we never will lag,
We'll beat them in fact though they beat us at brag ;
Our hopes in our honours we safely may fix,
And slam, aye, and lurch them in spite of odd tricks.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

Let them cut, let them deal, let them cheat in the score,
We'll beat them again, boys — we beat them before ;
Though the odds run against us we'll play well our parts,
We've trumps to the last, boys, for trumps are in hearts.

'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

To regale them with music the cannons shall roar,
And the musket's smart thunder shall chorus encore,
We'll give them a concert if hither they roam,
And the tune we'll strike up shall be — BRITONS STRIKE HOME!
'Tis LISTER invites, &c.

During the American war Mr. Lister of Gisburn Park, M.P. for Clitheroe in the parliaments of 1774, 1780, and 1784. raised, at his own expense, a regiment of horse for the use of Government, called Lister's Light Horse; and afterwards, at the breaking out of the French revolution, became Colonel of the Craven Legion of Yeomanry Cavalry, which commission he retained to his death in 1826. He was created Baron Ribblesdale in 1797.

XXXVII. — THE GAMBLER.

At a gambling hotel where, detection to shun,
Up *two* pair of stairs was thought safer than *one*,
The Sabbath for play being fix'd and agreed,
As the better the day still the better the deed,
An old peering sharper deep vers'd in the game,
But whose fingers with gout were enfeebled and lame,
In slipping and palming dexterity lacking,
Was nick'd, and soon out of the window sent packing.
A fall from two storys you'll own was a sad one,
Yet was not his case on the whole such a bad one,
A few bumps and bruises his whole penance proving,
Nor follow'd one fracture to make the tale moving;
So gath'ring his limbs up and limping along,
He thought it not right to put up with such wrong.
To a limb of the law then he went in a trice,
Put a fee in his hand and demanded advice,
Saying: "Sir, I've been wantonly pitch'd, you must know,
From the attic above to the pavement below,

And a miracle 'tis, from the fall, let me tell ye,
 That all my poor body's not bruise'd to a jelly."
 Says the lawyer: "What motive for treatment so hard?"
 "Dear sir, all my crime was but slipping a card."
 "Indeed! for how much did you play for, and where?"
 "For two hundred, up two pair of stairs, at the Bear."
 "Why then, my good friend, as you want my advice,
 T'other guinea advance'd, it is yours in a trice."
 "Here it is, my dear sir." "Very well; now, observe;
 Future downfalls to shun — from this rule never swerve:
 When challeng'd *up-stairs* luck for hundreds to try,
 Tell your frolicsome friends that *you don't play so high.*"

XXXVIII.—THE GARDEN OF THE MIND.

WHILE ancient bards Hesperian orchards praise,
 And modern gardens bloom in Mason's lays,
 A nobler theme my humbler Muse can find,
 And dares to sing the — *Garden of the Mind*;
 Where plants of diff'rent aspect court your view,
 Of diff'rent virtues and of various hue;
 Where some from wilds transplanted have been tri'd,
 And bloom and flourish now the garden's pride;
 Exotics, too, with native plants can vie
 For health, for vigour and the glowing die.
 Some scarce have strength their slender heads to raise,
 'Till fed and foster'd by the dews of praise;
 Others abound with vegetable life,
 Shoot out luxuriant and demand the knife;
 These turn, like Sunflow'rs, from their early youth
 To learning's lustre and the beams of truth;

While those, like Poppies nodding on their beds,
 With languid looks hang down their heavy heads.
 Some, vainly proud, affect external show,
 Dress'd like the Tulip, emblem of the beau ;
 Others their merits modestly disclose
 From Nature rich, yet blushing like the Rose ;
 Or, like the Sensitive, alive all o'er,
 Shrink from the touch and feel at ev'ry pore.
 Those, like the Primrose, early flow'rs can show ;
 Like Aloes these for years refuse to blow ;
 Here fribblish Jess'mines court the solar aid ;
 There modest Myrtles flourish in the shade ;
 Some bloom and wither in a single day,
 While Everlastings long continue gay.

Hear now what ills the tender plants await,
 What various labours are the gard'ner's fate.
 Oft creeping slugs their dull example spread
 And torpid languor reigns around the bed ;
 Or mining moles oft-times their roots annoy,
 Repress their vigour and their buds destroy ;
 And worms and maggots, lurking in the core,
 Prey on the bud, and all its hopes are o'er.
 T' improve the *Time* and cultivate the *Sage*
 The gard'ner's thoughts and all his cares engage ;
 The passing hours his anxious pains renew
 Weeds to repress and check the growth of *Rue* ;
 One noxious root with poison fills the ground,
 And spreads its baneful influence wide around ;
 But one great object is, without denial,
Cel'ry to raise and crops of *Penny-royal* !

XXXIX. — THE LABOURS OF HERCULES
MORALIZED.

WHAT name is more famous, more hackney'd in song
Than that of Alcides, bold, active and strong?
And poets inform us, as I know and you know,
How much he was plagu'd by his stepmother Juno;
That vixen 'mongst gods would e'en kick up a riot,
Then how could a mortal expect to be quiet?
In hopes that at last he might get a good drubbing
She kept with new jobs both his hands and his club in,
Dread monsters he vanquish'd, made giants knock under,
Kill'd lions and bears, and cut serpents asunder;
But the hero persisting o'er all was victorious,
And triumph'd at last, and his triumph was glorious.

Thus Nature, our stepmother, prompts us to evil
With the aid of Euristheus — (in English) the devil;
But Reason employ'd, with Religion's assistance,
The combat sustains with successful resistance.

The Lion stands first, a fit emblem of Rage,
With which we're in infancy call'd to engage;
The fervour of Anger then rules in the soul,
Its peace discomposes, and calls for control.

Then succeeds the fell Hydra our courage to prove,
That worst of all monsters, the monster Self-love;
Gash, mangle, or slice it, or cut it in twain,
The parts reunite, and it rallies again.

When we've vanquish'd Self-love, and the combat is o'er,
We're call'd to engage th' Erymanthean Boar,
That brutal Excess which too often, we find,
Subdues and debases the juvenile mind.

The Stag next awaits us, the demon of Pride,
Whose empire o'er man is extended so wide ;
In triumph o'er reason superbly 'tis borne,
Erecting its head and exalting its horn.

Now rise the Stymphtides, vig'rous in flight,
Our exertions demand, and provoke us to fight ;
Libidinous motions, which wisdom controls,
When indolence binds in soft fetters our souls.

Ambition, Augeas's stable, we find
Is the seat of pollution, the sink of the mind ;
To purge it our utmost exertion requires,
'Tis with vices replete and unsated desires.

Revenge, that dark passion so hard to assuage,
Is the Bull which our reason is next to engage ;
The breast where this passion's permitted to dwell
Is a scene of confusion, and gloomy as hell.

Now Diomed calls us the contest to try,
Dread tyranny's emblem, with death in his eye,
For Cruelty's oft entertain'd as a guest,
And a welcome too ready receives in the breast.

Grim Gorgon, the three-bodied monster, we find
Is Envy and Hatred and Malice combin'd ;
These passions 'gainst reason are always at strife,
Are of virtue the bane, and embitter our life.

Next rises for battle the Amazon maid,
That softness which juvenile souls will invade, —
That softness effeminate which will impart
Such stupor as luxury spreads o'er the heart.

Now Cerberus, threat'ning, attacks us, behold !
That meanest of passions, the passion for gold, —
A passion that broods discontent on its store,
Midst plenty still barking and growling for more.

These dangers surmounted, the Serpent remains,
Whose poison still rankles and spreads through our veins,

That stream of corruption which flows from within,
That taint of our nature which prompts us to sin.
Religion and reason assistance must bring
To root out its venom and pull out its sting:
This done, like Alcides, our souls shall arise,
Claim kindred with heav'n, and ascend to the skies.

XL. — THE MOCK-PATRIOT.

As oft I've seen the morn with gentle ray
Raise pleasing prospects of a tranquil day,
Serenely shone the landscape on the eye
And a bright azure gladden'd all the sky,
When lo ! ere noon, the heav'ns have been o'ercast
And winds conflicting raged with dreadful blast ;
Dark clouds sat scowling on the changing scene,
While lightnings flash and thunders roar between.
Such, L—— is thy life ; and conscience must
Bear painful witness that the picture's just.
Bright was thy dawn of youth, and soon began
The pleasing presage of the happy man ;
The virtues took possession of thy soul,
And passion yielded to their mild control ;
But soon ambition fill'd thy youthful breast
And discontent disturbed thy halcyon rest :
Pride, envy, malice followed in the train,
And inexperience fix'd ambition's reign.
That eye which used to shoot the purest ray
Glances suspicion and avoids the day ;
A sullen frown contracts thy alter'd brow,
And what was mildness once is madness now ;

Chang'd are thy features, and thy modest air
Is now become a melancholy stare ;
Sad discontentment sours thy feeble mind,
And foil'd ambition leaves its sting behind.
But still thy brain with new resources teems,
Hatches strange projects and conceives wild dreams :
Pride, malice, envy one assemblage form,
Ferment and work thy soul into a storm, —
A storm of rage which no distinction knows
'Twixt gen'rous friends and most invet'rate foes.
A slave of faction, now a party tool,
Thou'rt daily lectur'd in rebellion's school,
Where Fox turn'd loose attempts with lighted brand
To spread the flames of discord thro' the land, —
Where seeming patriots strive with impious hate
To sap the pillars of the Church and State ;
And thou, through ign'rance joining in the cause,
Strives to subvert the fabric of our laws,
That glorious edifice which long has stood
Fix'd and cemented by our fathers' blood.
But may the wretch, who strives with rebel hand
To change that system which pervades the land, —
That system which has been for ages tried,
The boast of Britons and the nation's pride,
By heav'n's just judgment be to ruin hurl'd,
A dread memento for a rebel-world !

XLI. — THE LIFE OF MAN.

WHAT said the gay, unthinking boy?
Methought Hilario talk'd of joy :
Tell, if thou canst, whence joys arise,
Or what those mighty joys you prize ;
You'll find (and ask superior years)
The vale of life a vale of tears.
Could wisdom teach where joys abound,
Or riches purchase them when found,
Would sceptr'd Solomon complain
That all was fleeting, false, and vain ?
Yet sceptr'd Solomon could say,
Returning clouds obscure the day.
Those maxims which the preacher drew
The royal sage experienced true ;
He knew the various ills that wait
Our infant and meridian state ;
That joys our earliest thoughts engage,
And diff'rent joys maturer age ;
That grief at ev'ry stage appears,
But diff'rent griefs at diff'rent years ;
That vanity is seen in part
Inscrib'd on ev'ry human heart.
In the child's breast the spark beg'n,
Grows with his growth, and glares in man.
But when in life we journey late,
If follies die do griefs abate ?
Oh ! what is life at fourscore years ?
One dark rough road of sighs, groans, pains, and tears !

XLII. — ON AVARICE.

WHAT man in his wits had not rather be poor,
Than for lucre his freedom to give?
Ever busy the means of his life to secure,
And for ever neglecting to live!

Environ'd from morning to night in a crowd,
Not a moment unbent or alone;
Constrain'd to be abject, though ever so proud,
And at ev'ry one's call but his own.

Still repining, and looking for quiet each hour,
Yet studiously flying it still;
With the means of enjoying each wish in his pow'r,
But accursed in wanting the will.

For a year must be pass'd, or a day must be come,
Before he has leisure to rest;
He must add to his store this or that petty sum,
And then he'll have time to be blest.

But his gains, more bewitching the more they increase,
Only swell the desires of his eye; —
Such a wretch let my enemy live, if he please,
But, oh! not so wretchedly die!

XLIII. — THE MONSTER IN THE MOON.

Not long ago a Cambridge wight,
 Whose eye could see things out of sight,
 Who read and mus'd by fits and starts,
 In love with sciences and arts, —
 Tir'd with his circles, square and cube,
 Took down his telescopic tube,
 And quick into his garden run
 To make discov'ries in the sun.

The tube he levell'd, cock'd his eye
 T' explore the wonders of the sky;
 He peep'd not long before he spies
 A monster of enormous size,
 With wings immense and legs so ample
 As worlds to atoms soon might trample,
 With vast proboscis, frightful paws,
 And arm'd with most tremendous claws,
 So large the trunk that he with ease
 Might eat the earth and drink the seas:
 This in the sun he saw — 'tis fact,
 With observation most exact.

Now to his room with haste he speeds,
 Draws schemes, works problems, and succeeds,
 And could by algebra conclude
 The animal's whole magnitude,
 Which was, as he'd convince you soon,
 Some nine times bigger than the moon.

Now deep absorb'd in meditation,
 He thus began a speculation:
 "This beast, unless my senses wander,
 "Must be a flying salamander,

" Which, midst the fire of such a planet,
 " Not only lives but seems to fan it.
 " Perhaps he may, nay *must*, I think,
 " Make fire and light his meat and drink ;
 " And I've observ'd that much of late
 " The solar heat begins t' abate.
 " Perhaps, whene'er his wings he slips
 " Athwart the sun, he makes th' eclipse ;
 " Perhaps the sun's red face he scours
 " From pimples, and his spots devours ;
 " For worms we find ('tis oft the case)
 " Will burrow in the human face.
 " Comets he eats, perhaps, that run
 " In perihelic to the sun.
 " Perhaps to earth at last he'll fly
 " In flaming vengeance from the sky,
 " And then, unless his jaws they make fast,
 " This globe will scarcely serve for breakfast."

Thus he went on 'till all the college
 Their great surprise and fears acknowledge,
 Resolving when the day was bright
 Themselves to view this dreadful sight.
 With trembling hands the glass they took,
 Eager and yet afraid to look,
 Each saw the beast, and thought with ease
 He'd eat up worlds as they eat cheese.

Now one, more cautious than the rest,
 Who harbour'd doubts within his breast,
 Suspecting that some error was
 Or in their noddles or the glass,
 The screws untwists, with sanguine hope,
 And first explores the telescope.
 'Twas open'd, and his curious eye
 The monster found — guess what ? a FLY !

XLIV. — SONG ON THE BATTLE OF ST. VINCENT,
14TH FEBRUARY, 1797.

Tune — "HEARTS OF OAK ARE OUR SHIPS."

SAID Neptune one day, when conversing with Mars,
 "You boast of your landsmen, I boast of my tars :
 "Lo ! these ships of proud Spain, see how pompous they ride !
 "Now mark how my Britons shall humble their pride.
 "My Jervis shall maul them, let Spain no more brag ;
 "His force is inferior,
 "His courage superior,
 "And Vict'ry shall perch upon Jervis's flag."

He spoke — and, behold, the two fleets hove in sight,
 And Jervis, preparing with coolness to fight,
 His tars with true courage first strove to inspire,
 Then rush'd on the Spaniards in thunder and fire.
 The Britons now maul them, let Spain no more brag ;
 Our force was inferior,
 Our courage superior,
 And Victory soar'd over Jervis's flag.

Our sailors struck home and well pointed their guns,
 Dread carnage ensu'd, and they pepper'd the dons ;
 Each man was a hero, a true British tar,
 Whose ship is his home, whose amusement is war.
 Brave Jervis has maul'd her, let Spain no more brag ;
 His force was inferior,
 His courage superior,
 And Victory perch'd upon Jervis's flag.

Mars view'd this engagement ; then said, " By the Styx,
 " My standard 'mongst Britons for ever I'll fix ;
 " Like Romans they fight, and their souls are all fire,
 " And battles like this even gods must admire.

 " These Britons shall conquer, no nation shall brag ;

 " With forces inferior,

 " They've courage superior,

 " And Vict'ry shall perch on Britannia's flag."

" In my bosom," says Neptune, " this nation I keep ;
 " Her sons are my fav'rites, her walls are the deep ;
 " Their king is my friend, and great GEORGE, under me,
 " A trident shall wield — my vicegerent at sea.

 " My Britons shall conquer, no nation shall brag ;

 " With forces inferior,

 " They've courage superior,

 " And Vict'ry shall rest on Britannia's proud flag."

XLV. — THE RHYME-SMITH'S ANNUAL VERSES.

PRESENTED TO THE PARCHED-PEAS CLUB IN PRESTON,
 A.D. 1808.

I'm aware you'll expect that myself I excuse
 For invoking so late in the season my Muse,
 But the truth is, I call'd her and call'd her again,
 Yet my first invocations I found were in vain.
 She said that in Scotland a job she had got —
 A job most congenial — to help Mr. Scott ;
 Though to him at the first she was shy, yet quite frisky
 When he'd given her a bottle of excellent whisky.

She next was invok'd to the Laureate's abode,
 Who begg'd her best aid in his annual ode,
 But she gave herself airs, was pert, pouting and shy,
 And call'd him dunce, blockhead, nay, simple *goose-pie* ;
 But soon he becalm'd the abuse of the slut
 When he brought into view and then open'd his *butt* ;
 She swill'd down a bottle — the Muse is not slack,
 And declar'd it a butt of superlative sack ;
 Then she vented the lines with much labour and sweat,
 Which deserve to the sackbut at least to be set.

Then I begg'd that for me in grand style she'd begin,
 But first she demanded a noggin of gin ;
 She whipp'd off her gin, then deliver'd in verse
 The lines which I now shall beg leave to rehearse.

Dear brethren, to what shall I liken our club ?
 We're pipe-staves well cooper'd and forming a tub ;
 For whilst in fraternity closely we link
 We're qualified duly for holding more drink.
 Our rules are the pegs which have fix'd us all fast,
 And thus hoop'd and well pegg'd sure our union must last ;
 But lest we should warp if expos'd to dry weather
 Our president moistens and keeps us together.
 Should aught in our tub fermentation restrain,
 We've a hoard of parch'd peas to renew it again ;
 We've peas on the board, too, — whenever we meet
 They constantly constitute part of our treat :
 The peas are serv'd up with this sensible view,
 Because finish the *P's* and of course you're in *Q*.

When each takes his place we're a magical ring ;
 And, as conj'rors, can do any wonderful thing ;
 We spirits can call up, though closely confin'd,
 And at all times are ready for raising the wind ;
 As the wind we can raise, then, pray where is the wonder
 If sometimes we imitate Jupiter's thunder.

But should tempests arise and our vent-peg fly out,
And blasts in full force make a perilous rout,
Their rage we can soften and quell them with ease
By referring their case to the Clerk of the *Peas* ;
Like Æolus, he the foul winds can command,
For he holds by commission the reins in his hand,
He summons at will ev'ry boist'rous rover,
Does summary justice, or binds them all over.

Next consider how wisely we make to our club,
The oysters essential — they dwell in a *tub*
Where all are confin'd in their separate shells,
Yet sleep more content than the nuns in their cells ;
For something monastic appears amongst oysters,
Since gregarious they live and yet sleep in their cloisters.
And however the oysters are plac'd in the barrel
They never presume with their stations to quarrel ;
They still make the best of their present condition,
Though preference is due to the middle position ;
For turn down the top, then the highest will fall,
And the lowest will rise to the top of them all.
Not so with the middlemost — their situation
No change can experience or feel degradation ;
The middlemost, too, their bland juices bestow
On their poor pining brethren embedded below.

From this let us learn what an oyster can tell us,
And we all shall be better and happier fellows ;
Be content with your stations wherever you've got 'em,
Be not proud at the top, nor repine at the bottom ;
But happiest they in the middle who live,
And have something to lend, and to spend, and to give.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. John Dawson¹ to Rev. Thomas Wilson,

Sedbergh, Dec. 10th, 1771.

Dear Sir: I have read over your *Essay on Self-murder* as carefully as possible, and I will assure you without flattery I think it extremely well done. I intended to have made objections to it, but am quite disappointed, and cannot but entirely agree with you in every argument. The arguments drawn from the common feel-

¹ Mr. John Dawson was born in 1734 of respectable parents in Garsdale near Sedbergh, where he had a small estate. He was an almost self-taught mathematician, and relinquished the practice of physic in order that he might devote his time and talents to a branch of learning in which it was said he had no superior in England. From 1770 to the time of his death his wide-spread reputation as a teacher of mathematics was unrivalled, and fully recognized by the University of Cambridge, a large number of the Wranglers, College Tutors, and celebrated men in various parts of the world, having been his pupils. Such, however, was his extreme diffidence, simplicity of manners, and unambitious views, that he realized very little by his great talents, but pecuniary consideration was not his object, as he regarded mathematical instruction as his "chief amusement." He published little, although several valuable papers were written by him on abstruse mathematical subjects, especially those illustrative of difficult parts of Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia*. In early life he engaged in controversy, first with the celebrated William Emerson on the subject of the Newtonian Analysis, or Method of Fluxions, and combated the objections of Leibnitz, Bernoulli, Euler, &c.; afterwards with the learned Dr. Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, respecting the "Sun's distance;" and also with the not less able, though perhaps less known, Charles Wildbore, many years editor of the *Gentleman's Diary*, on the subject of fluids issuing from vessels in motion. It was in 1768 that Dawson published anonymously his "Four Propositions" pointing out a fatal error in Dr. Stewart's astronomical investigation, being the first philosopher who had discovered the dangerous nature of it. Chalmers observes (*voce*

ings of mankind (and to which you have justly given the preference) are certainly of the greatest weight, and must be to every one the most convincing. You have managed this part well, by bringing all the arguments into a small compass, which I think have a much better effect than if they had been diffused through a

Stewart) that Mr. Dawson, who wrote with much modesty and good temper, was a surgeon at Sudbury (Sedbergh) in Yorkshire, and one of the most ingenious mathematicians and philosophers which this country at that time possessed. Dr. James Hutton the metaphysician and natural philosopher, and Mr. Wilson the usher of Sedbergh school, assisted him in preparing his treatise for the press, which was immediately placed in the hands of Mr. Landen, who ably assailed Dr. Stewart's views, but in a spirit very different from Dawson's.

It was said that seven living Bishops and twelve Senior Wranglers had been his pupils at Sedbergh; and afterwards Butler of Sidney, Senior Wrangler at the age of 19, subsequently Master of Harrow and Dean of Peterborough, and the Lord Chief Justice Tindal, gratefully acknowledged their obligations to their old mathematical tutor.

Devoted to study, he beheld the prizes of literary ambition *oculo irretorto*, and resisted many tempting offers both of ease and lucre to quit his native plains, where all the active years of his life had been past, for a dignified retirement amidst academic shades. He had the honour to receive from the heads of the University of Cambridge a valuable present of plate as a mark of their personal respect and high estimation of his talents; but the honorary degree which would have enrolled him amongst the most distinguished of Granta's sons was, unfortunately for the University, not conferred.

Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe was his early, and through life a favourite, pupil, and was indebted to him at least for his scientific attainments. A friendly intercourse was uninterruptedly maintained, and the regard was evidently mutual. Dawson was a well-informed and steadily attached son of the Church of England, and several of his letters to Wilson, which are not here printed, partly on account of their theological and controversial character, are clear, logical and forcible exhibitions of important truths, calculated, and evidently designed, to instruct the inexperienced inquirer and to edify the sincere Christian. He was married and had one daughter. He died at Sedbergh, September 20, 1820, in his 86th year, retaining his faculties unclouded to the close of his useful life, his last pupil being the Rev. Dr. Parkinson, Principal of St. Bees' College and Canon of Manchester.

A good portrait of Mr. Dawson was engraved by Burney from a painting by Mr. Allen, in which was also introduced a portrait of his youthful pupil, Thomas Legh, afterwards of Lyme Park Esq. M.P., at whose expense the portrait was painted, and in whose family it probably still is; his marble bust has also been placed in Sedbergh Church. See *Gent. Mag.* vol. lxxii. part i. p. 39; vol. xc. part ii. p. 569.—Chalmers's *Biog. Diet.*

dozen or a score of pages. In the first sentence you have raised an expectation which is never after particularly satisfied. "Self-murder," you say, "though it deserves, in some cases and under particular circumstances, to be ranked amongst the virtues," &c. This I expected to have seen illustrated; would it not be proper to take some notice of it? Page 11. You say: "As to the injury which a man hereby does to himself, it is compounded of the affront to the Almighty, the injury done to society," &c. I would ask, What business has he with society after he is removed out of it? or how can the loss of him here affect him hereafter? To this you will answer: If an injury done to society be an offence against heaven, ought he not to suffer for it? This, I know, is right; but I think it wants a few words to make it appear in that light. Page 22. You say: "For repentance can no more wipe out those sins," &c. I cannot say that I am well pleased with this simile, or the consequence drawn from it, viz., "So that there is no necessary connection," &c. Our good works are of no service to the Almighty; paying our debts is to our creditors. If misery be the necessary consequence of sin or a bad disposition, or if these two be inseparably connected, must it not be allowed that where one is not the other too must be absent. Now where there is sincere repentance and amendment, can there be a bad disposition? But what I would lay the greatest stress upon is the common feeling, belief, or principle, which I believe is common to all mankind, that repentance and amendment will in some measure appease an offended Deity. If such a feeling as this be implanted in our nature, it certainly was not intended to mislead us. In not paying our debts, the whole offence lies in withholding from another what is his due; in sinning against God, the badness of our disposition enters into the account, perhaps forms a principal part of the crime. I have not said this with an intention to prove that the simile is altogether wrong, only to recommend it to your consideration whether a different manner of expressing this argument would not be more proper than as it stands at present. After this there is nothing that I could wish to have altered, except two or

three of the last lines, where the assertion appears to me too bold, though there is much reason to fear it is too true.

I shall be certainly obliged to you to see Beattie[’s book] when you have done with it, for I have heard a great character of it. You will be surprised I have not returned your *Essay* sooner, but I did not receive it before the 1st December, and was so extremely busy for some time after that I could not read it over so carefully as I could have wished.

I have a dispute in hand at present with Mr. Hutton of Newcastle and Mr. Wildbore, in the mathematical way, but I have not time to tell you more. My wife and Poll beg their compliments. I am sincerely yours,

JOHN DAWSON.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson,
at Cockerham,
Near Lancaster.

Mr. John Dawson to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Sedbergh, January 31st, 1772.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of the 7th inst. Your sentiments concerning Beattie’s book undoubtedly are very just; he certainly is an excellent writer, and, I think, has set Hume and all the same class of writers in a just light, where they must appear to every honest enquirer after truth in their proper colours, and consequently become despicable. The objection which I made to your *Essay* concerning the doctrine of repentance as being of no avail towards the remission of sins, &c., seems still to me to be doubtful. The doubt I think rests here, whether the feelings that flatter us upon this occasion be natural or acquired. This, I think, is the light in which it appears to you. If they be natural, we certainly, in some measure, may depend upon their efficacy, for the Deity would never give us feelings to mislead us; this is beyond a doubt. I would ask whether, with regard to our fellow-creatures, we have not these feelings, and whether upon many occasions they are not of great service in regulating our conduct towards them? Again, whether, if the conduct which these feelings dictate, should have

no effect upon the person injured, we should not look upon him as of an unamiable temper, and a contracted, selfish turn of mind? You will easily see in what manner I should apply these observations to prove the objection before made, but as you justly observe, this doctrine, if true, takes away considerably from the evidence of Christianity, which certainly is a very strong argument against it. The dispute we have had concerning the divinity of Christ is now at an end. The explanation you have given of the word *person* has cleared up the difficulty, and I can perfectly acquiesce in the doctrines of our Church upon this subject. It makes the whole so clear and satisfactory that I cannot but be surprised that it should not be commonly known, and have prevented a deal of idle and foolish wrangling upon this subject. We have had Metcalfe's proposals for publishing his System of Botany, at Sedbergh, and I am informed that it is yet uncertain whether it is printed or not, as this depends upon getting a proper number of subscribers. From this I conceive some hopes of keeping my twelve shillings in my pocket. I believe they have got only either three or four in this parish. I am, dear sir, your sincere friend and obedient servant,

JOHN DAWSON.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson,
at Cockerham,
Near Lancaster.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. John Dawson.

[February 8th, 1774.]

Dear Sir: I dined the other day with Mr. Weddell,¹ and looked for the volume of the *Gentleman's Magazine* in which is the debate concerning the moral sense; but was not fortunate enough to meet with it. His books, in consequence of the repairs of his house, have been deranged and misplaced and the succession of the volumes broken, which caused the disappointment. I have not had time to think steadily upon the subject, but shall give you my sentiments as they occur without study.

¹ Of Waddow Hall, near Clitheroe.

The conduct of the Deity in the moral, will not be found less wise than in the natural, constitution of man. In the latter we observe a provision of causes, which operate in all the necessary and most important functions of life, without the concurrence of volition or the direction of human reason. This is the case in the systole and diastole of the heart, the peristaltic motion of the intestines and the circulation of the blood and juices; whilst the less important functions are subjected to the influence of the will. Thus all those principles which are to regulate our conduct as moral agents, we have reason to suppose, are uniform and steady, and derived from the suggestions of our constitution, without requiring the tedious deductions of the rational faculty; while the less momentous actions of our lives may have a strong dependence upon custom and fashion, or derive their origin from the association of ideas.

We have also a right to suppose that the Deity would make equal provision for the happiness of man as a moral agent, as is observed to be made for his preservation as an animal. That man may continue a living being, he has, we observe, the ministry of his external senses to discover what is beneficial to his health, and pleasure is annexed to the perception of whatever contributes to this end. And shall man be left more deficient in what relates to his moral state? May we not from analogy conclude that he is provided with certain innate principles and internal sense which lead him to the discovery of whatever concerns him as a moral agent, and which is constantly followed by inward satisfaction?

But not to rest the argument upon analogy. We actually find ourselves impelled with an instinctive violence to the performance of acts of justice, mercy and gratitude, whenever the occasions occur. Whenever we see a wretch suffering oppression and wrong do not our hearts burn within us to rescue and vindicate the cause of the sufferer? When we see an object in distress does not the heart, by a natural motion, dictate to the hand to offer him relief? Whenever we have received an obligation from another is it not conscious of its effusions, and does it not pant to requite the

favour? Whatever we perceive to be conducive to the good [of] society or beneficial to an individual, that we are impelled by an innate instinct to perform, and to secure the performance of such acts in a still more effectual manner, a degree of pleasure is annexed to the deed. Now this pleasure does not arise from any abstract reasoning upon the consequences of our actions, but springs as instantaneously and naturally from it as that which attends the smell of a rose or the taste of a pine-apple. Man seems to act in the common course of life from instinctive perceptions of what is right, with a sort of extempore conduct, and reason is seldom called upon but in emergencies. The province of reason in moral matters through the general concerns of life, seems chiefly to consist in showing us of two different modes of acting which will be productive of the greater good, or what conduct in complex cases will be right and fit. But when this is found, the mind with instinctive energy requires the performance. Thus the eye in general can distinguish objects with sufficient accuracy, but on particular occasions it may require the assistance of a microscope.

So strong is this innate bias in young minds towards acts of generosity, benevolence and gratitude, that they oftentimes run to excess, and require the interference of reason and prudence to keep them within bounds. Some instances may be produced, perhaps, of a contrary tendency, but those are rare, and may be justly considered as monsters, or put upon a similar footing with those wherein any of the external senses are perverted. Thus some palates are pleased with tastes which to the generality are disagreeable, and some distempered eyes see all things yellow.

Such is our innate love of truth, justice and mercy, that we speak truly, act honestly, and do benevolent actions a thousand times oftener than the contrary. Different modes of education may have a considerable influence in strengthening or weakening these moral tendencies, as different habits of exercising the outward senses may make a change in the organs. Thus tanners and tallow chandlers are brought at last to like the disagreeable smells which attend their occupations. But even those who, from the

prevalence of passion or bad habits pursue vicious practices, feel the truth of the poet's assertion : —

————— video meliora proboque,
Deteriora sequor.

See St. Paul to the Romans. Such, too, is the power of this moral tendency that the poet's observation is strictly true, *Nemo repente turpissimus fuit*. We must not expunge a general rule because there are a few exceptions. We must not deny that man is held to the ground by the power of gravity merely because we sometimes see him bound from the earth in apparent opposition to it.

Philosophers have confessed themselves at a loss to account for the pleasure we feel from relieving an object in distress ; but on the supposition of an instinctive principle or moral sense, the solution is easy, — we find it is the work of God, and a part of our constitution, as much as the pleasure we receive from the most grateful odours.

On the supposition of a moral sense we may also see the reason why some philosophers have laid down self-love as the spring of our moral actions, and subscribe to the truth of the position. For this moral sense or moral instinct is an appetite for doing just and generous actions, and the indulgence of this, like the indulgence of every natural appetite, procures us satisfaction, and for the sake of this satisfaction the action it prompts us to is performed. This shows the wisdom of the Deity in a noble point of view, who has made a regard to the interests of society necessary to our own happiness, and blended them so intimately together that self-love and social are the same. To explain myself further. It gives me pain to see a fellow-creature in distress ; the pain I feel can only be removed by yielding him relief ; and thus by relieving him I relieve myself, and procure a peculiar pleasure also, which the wise Creator has annexed to the deed, with the kind intention of making due provision for the existence and continuance of social intercourse, and connecting man to man by the forcible ties of self-love.

So powerful is the moral sense that it does not only bring us

pleasure from actions of benevolence which we have ourselves performed, but likewise from those of other men. To hear of a generous deed performed by a stranger gives us great delight; nay even the fabulous representations of kind and benevolent actions on the stage have a strong influence on the mind, and are grateful to the moral sense.

It may perhaps be said that to support the doctrine of a moral sense is to revive the exploded notion of innate ideas, because innate practical principles imply innate propositions, and innate propositions, being made up of ideas, will imply innate ideas. To this I reply, that there may, without innate ideas, be in the mind a natural bias, a predisposition or aptitude to receive pleasure from actions of this or that tendency. In the same manner we are constituted so as to receive pleasure from the smell of a fragrant flower; and that moral propensities are not more unaccountable than natural instincts. I might further add that many of the ancient philosophers held a similar doctrine, and distinguished the moral sense by the terms *principia naturæ*, *leges naturæ*, *προληψεις κοιναι*, or *φυσικαι εννοιαι*, *νομος φυσικος*. Diogenes Laertius, speaking of Crassippus, says, *χρητηρια φησιν ειναι αιθησιν και προληψιν*. In Cicero also we have this observation, *Nec solum jus et injuria a naturâ dijudicatur, sed omnino omnia honesta et turpia. Nam communis intelligentia nobis notas res efficit, easque in animis nostris inchoavit, ut honesta in virtute ponantur, in vitiis turpia*. The common language of mankind also, when applied to moral subjects, frequently presupposes a moral sense. So true is the observation that virtue is its own reward.

The Heathens, who had very obscure notions of a future state, gloried in and loudly applauded every act of disinterested generosity.

In what has been said I would not be understood to deny the power of habit and early cultivation, nor would I be supposed to controvert the principles which other philosophers have laid down as the foundation of morality. My intention was to prove the existence of a moral sense and moral propensities, and to show

that they are the chief pillar on which virtue is supported. A regard to our own interest personally and the deductions of reason point to the same conduct, and theology adds its sanction in favour of virtue. The moral sense is the grand column, but it receives additional strength and firmness from early habits, from the suggestions of reason, and from the fear of God. None of the four should be considered as the sole foundation of morality, but if they are joined together as mutually assisting each other in producing virtuous conduct, we shall undoubtedly be nearer the truth than if we adopted any other opinion, and this fourfold cord will not be easily broken.

When reason has proved the propriety of this or that conduct, the mind would rest in torpid speculation if not urged forward to do what is proper by another power, which is the moral instinctive propensity; and I verily believe a society of atheists, if such can exist, would generally, from the force of natural bias, act like other men in obedience to their moral feelings, because they could not be contravened but to their own loss in point of happiness; for such is our constitution that if a man would act from motives of self-interest, and with a view to his personal happiness, independently of all expectations of future rewards, he must act consonantly with his moral instincts. I am, dear Sir, your sincere friend,

THOMAS WILSON.

Mr. Dawson, Surgeon,
At Sedbergh, near Kendal,
Westmoreland.

Mr. John Dawson to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Sedbergh, May 10th, 1774.

Dear Sir: I take the opportunity of sending this, along with the books, to let you know that I received your letter, and that now I think I understand you perfectly, and that to me it appears that according to the light in which you view the subject, your arguments are unanswerable, and your manner of managing them

extremely ingenious. Yet I cannot but think that to denominate a man selfish from the exercise of his social affections must be an abuse of terms. At this rate the Deity may be called a selfish being, for, is not benevolence His principle of action with respect to us, and with the exercise of it He is well pleased, else He would alter His conduct towards us; consequently in this view He must be selfish. To illustrate my meaning let us take such a supposition as the following:—Suppose a man of good common sense, but who knows nothing of metaphysics, has an intimate friend in distress, and to relieve him he risks his life, health or fortune: upon this account he is told that he has acted a very selfish part. How will he be surprised! will he not begin to question the intellects of the person who tells him so? for he will answer: Had I, afraid of bringing an injury upon myself, let my friend perish without attempting to save him, what you say had been very just; but my conduct being quite the contrary, my motives could not be the same. Such an accusation will appear as much a paradox or contradiction to him as if he had been told that there was no merit in the above action because he was not a free agent. However, it must be allowed that the pleasure which we feel in the exercise of any of the social affections, or the pain which by that means we avoid, is the sole reason that we ever exercise them at all. Nor can we conceive it to be otherwise among free agents. All that I contend for then is, that man should not be called a selfish being from the pleasure he feels in the exercise of those affections that relate to society. I will take a little more time with your letter, for as yet I have read it but very slightly. Your old landlord, Thomas Holmes, is dead. Will you come to Sedbergh this summer? I should recommend it for your health; but in this I must acknowledge I am selfish. I think I have often told you what would be the consequence of your sedentary life and close reading; I am glad you are sensible of it—I hope, in time to prevent any disagreeable consequences. Mr. Berry's compliments, and he desires me to tell you that he has got Dr. Priestley's

Institutes of Natural and Revealed Religion, which are much at your service whenever you please. I am yours sincerely,

JOHN DAWSON.

My wife and daughter beg their compliments.
The Rev. Mr. Wilson,
At Slaidburn,
Near Settle.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Dawson.

Slaidburne, October 19th, 1774.

Dear Sir: I received your last duly, and am much obliged to you for your kind enquiry after my health. I have the pleasure to inform you that I have been well all this summer, and that I have no feelings at present that seem to prognosticate any winter complaint. I have remitted much in my application to books, and have recourse to them rather as recreation than as business. I am convinced that an avaricious grasping after knowledge generally terminates in disappointment, and is always attended with anxiety. As overstraining the muscles of the body, or a long continued exertion of their powers, brings on tremors, and irrecoverably destroys their tone; so the mind, by a long, painful, and intense brooding over any kind of study, acquires a weakness that can scarce ever be remedied, and a vibratory unsteadiness that can never be settled. Besides, by secluding oneself from society a man soon grows unsociable, and when all our knowledge and all the materials of our knowledge are gleaned from reading and solitary meditation, the mind loses its elasticity by which it should throw them off in company; so that, though we be in possession, the possession is useless. A man very frequently, whose mind can play with vast agility in solitude, finds all his ideas disobedient to the summons when called upon before company; so that he whose head has received its furniture from the library, though he lives in the midst of plenty, yet such plenty it is as that of Tantalus; the materials of conversation lie every where in vast profusion round you, but stoop for enjoyment,

and behold they elude the grasp. So much for the effects of study, which, though I am sensible it is a bad companion, I find it difficult totally to discard it. It is easier to preach by far than to practise.

Be pleased to make my compliments to Mr. Berry,¹ and let him know that the books came safe to hand. I have read Priestley's *Institutes*, and think them fitted sufficiently for the purpose for which he professes that he intends them, viz., the instruction of youth. The scattered proofs of the truths of Christianity are drawn into one point, and like every thing else which undergoes the operation of his mind, assumes the appearance of method.

I have just perused Goldsmith's *History of the Earth and Animated Nature*, which is a pleasing book, and contains a number of facts astonishingly curious. I am equally struck with the industry and ingenuity of Dr. Priestley in reading the extract that the reviewers give of his last publication, *On the Properties of Air*; what a wide field he has opened, and what a large tract of it has his hand cultivated!

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

To Mr. Dawson,

THOMAS WILSON.

Surgeon, in Sedbergh,
Yorkshire.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. John Dawson.

Clitheroe, December 21, 1779.

Dear Sir: Without professing my own sentiments upon the subject (which indeed fluctuate betwixt metaphysics and common sense), I have thrown the arguments in favour of the necessity of human actions into the form of demonstration.

Prop.—Man is *necessarily* determined in all his *volitions*, and consequently in all his *actions*.

Demonstration.

1. All nature, so far as our acquaintance with nature extends,

¹ Mr. Richard Berry, an Usher at Sedbergh School, and afterwards Curate of Prestwich and Incumbent of Royton in the parish of Prestwich-cum-Oldham.

obeys eternal and immutable laws ; it is therefore probable that human nature is not exempt from a similar control.

2. Volition in the human mind seems to be exactly analogous to motion in matter ; for volition cannot be produced without motives, nor motion without impulse. Mind, from acquired habits, constitutional propensities and biases received from education, — and matter, from certain circumstances, previous modifications and particular situations, — will require greater or less degrees of force to give them the motions required ; but the same force under the same circumstances will always have the same effect. Now, as the situation we are at any time placed in, and that disposition of mind which inclines us to view objects in this or that light are determined by other previous circumstances not dependent upon ourselves nor under our control, does it not follow that our actions cannot be free ?

3. Man, as a created being, cannot be free — a created being must, from the terms, be entirely dependent upon the Creator, and in every instance act agreeably to the laws established ; but the laws established require that in every given circumstance a certain consequence shall take place, and no other. If this was not the case the creature would, in every action performed from caprice and uninfluenced by the nature of things, be dependent upon himself only, and an independent being as to the Creator. But all things operate upon and affect each other according to their specific natures ; and the nature of things is the establishment of the Deity ; consequently, so are the effects which proceed from their mutual relations. Nothing therefore can be free.

4. A choice of indifference, which is a term philosophers have invented to get rid of the difficulty, appears to me as unintelligible as an effect without a cause. If the will is determined, it is determined by something, and that something, though ever so trifling when considered in itself, has weight enough to turn the scale. To say the will is determined by nothing is to say it is not determined. To say it is determined by chance is conjuring up a

nonentity; yet betwixt necessity and chance there is no medium. The consequence therefore is, my will is determined by my judgment, good or bad; but my judgment, good or bad, is necessary: so must my will be, and consequently my actions.

5. We are formed with a never-failing desire of happiness, and can choose nothing but what appears in present circumstances, under the present state of our minds and according to our present view of things, the most conducive to this end. But this desire of happiness is implanted by the hand of God; and our present circumstances, the present state of our minds, and consequently our present view of things, are the effects of necessary causes, and therefore so must our choice be which depends upon them.

6. The Deity, it will be allowed, formed the world. By the world we are to understand the whole system of things, material and immaterial, and the whole round of events, past, present and to come; for if He merely made the frame, as it were, and left the furniture to be supplied by chance, we are again immersed in absurdity. He therefore made the frame and constituted the nature of things, and from this constitution was the world furnished with events in the order, series, and seasons required. Consequently the Deity, either mediately or immediately, is the cause of all events. Man therefore is not free.

7. If we believe a Providence, either general or particular, we are carried to the same conclusion. For a general Providence must extend to all particulars, since the whole could not be provided for unless all the parts were taken care of, because generals consist of particulars. If we admit a particular Providence, we admit the very thing in dispute. Indeed, it is not to be conceived that the Deity, in the formation of the world, should not establish the course of things both in the natural and moral world, which has proceeded, which now proceeds, and shall for ever proceed, in a continued series or chain. He knew the positions and motions He gave to matter and the stations He assigned to the Spirits He had created. He knew also what changes and productions they

would generate by their mutual action one upon another. And if He knew what would result from His work, we cannot doubt that He framed it with an intention that it should have that result.

8. The Divine prescience and omniscience furnish an irrefragable argument in support of the doctrine of necessity; for, if the Deity infallibly foresees all events that will be brought about, and every action that shall be done in the course of the world, no action, no event with respect to Him can be contingent; but everything in His eye will be fixed as fate. If nothing be contingent with respect to Him, there can be no such thing as absolute and real contingency at all. Our meaning then, when we say a thing is contingent, in its true philosophical sense, must be this: that we ourselves cannot tell whether it will fall out thus or thus. The Deity, we apprehend, has full prescience of all future events, because He cannot but have an intimate and unerring acquaintance with the nature of things — their relations to and influences upon each other; for the nature of things is such as He established, and so are the events consequent thereupon. The Deity therefore must be omniscient, and, being omniscient, nothing can be contingent. Therefore man cannot be free.

Having seen that all nature is subject to fixed and immutable laws; having proved that the human mind is influenced by external motives over which it has no control, and internal propensities, &c., which are no less independent upon it; having shown that no created being can act freely; having shown that the pretences made to a choice of indifference are destitute of foundation; having made it appear that human actions proceed from a desire of happiness, which, with all its modifications, must be ascribed to a foreign cause; having observed that the world, with all its events, is the work of God; having found that Providence takes care not only of things in general, but of things in particular; and having demonstrated, from the Divine prescience, that no events can be contingent, I think myself justified in drawing this conclusion: that man is necessarily determined in all his volitions, and consequently in all his actions. Q. E. D.

Scholia.

If to the doctrine supported above, it be objected that a full conviction on the subject would take away all motives of action — for why should we act where the event is infallibly determined? — I answer that the actions which are to produce the event are no less determined than the event itself; and conviction, where conviction could have the effect supposed above, is carefully prevented.

If it be said that no such analogy subsists between matter and mind, as is taken for granted above, and that the conclusion thence deduced is destitute of real foundation, I reply that, though matter and mind are essentially different one from the other, yet the motions of the one and the volitions of the other are perfectly analogous in that respect which the argument requires, viz., that both are effects and have the same relation to their respective causes.

If it be said that, according to the arguments made use of to prove man under the power of necessity, the Deity Himself cannot be free; I answer, that the Deity is determined by motives arising from the reason and nature of things, which nature of things was established by Himself; the determination of His will, therefore, depends ultimately upon Himself in all cases, and surely to be in all cases self-determined is to be perfectly free.

If it is said that the Deity is still under the power of necessity, and if I be asked who imposed that necessity upon Him? I answer, necessity never was imposed, but is co-eternal with the Deity. We find that wisdom, power, &c., in created beings is derived from some superior; but would it not be absurd to ask whence the Deity derived His wisdom, power, &c.? There is just as much propriety in asking the cause of the attributes of the Deity, as in asking who imposed the necessity He is under of acting consistently with these attributes.

If, in answer to the argument drawn from the Divine prescience, it be presumed that prescience in God may be different from human foreknowledge, and consequently may not affect the contin-

gency of events; I reply, that knowledge both in God and man must be the same in kind, and can only differ in degree: therefore an event in the divine prescience must take away its contingency. If God only foresees things as liable to happen thus or thus, without foreseeing that they will absolutely fall out in this particular manner, His prescience must be imperfect; because He will be wiser after the event than he was before; but perfection of wisdom (which we suppose to be essentially inherent in God) can admit of no addition.

As to the objection that a full conviction of this doctrine will be a misfortune to superior beings, should their minds be fully possessed of it, I shall make no further reply to it than by saying that minds fully possessed of this doctrine may, in my opinion, be capable of great measures of happiness; and that motives and propensities to action may be given to them of such force and strength as to drown this conviction, and urge them to act in such a manner as shall answer the ends and designs of Providence. This may be the case, particularly if considerable degrees of happiness are to be obtained by acting.

For a conclusion of this letter I would add the concluding paragraphs of my last upon this subject concerning the morality of human actions, but am so tired with the subject that I must beg leave to refer you thither.

Yours sincerely, THOMAS WILSON.

Compliments to Mrs. Dawson.

P.S. I thought to have sent your letters by Barton, but when I came to look them out for that purpose, I determined to say something in reply. I still admire your management of the matter, and seriously advise you to hand it to Price and Priestley. Barton will transcribe them for you, and if you please this might go before, and your arguments be so arranged as to answer mine more directly. This has cost me a very painful afternoon; I cannot write freely on the subject.

Mr. Dawson,
Surgeon, Sedbergh.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. John Dawson.

[No. date. — Qu. 1775 or 6.]

Dear Sir: I expected ere this to have had an answer to my last farrago, but have not been so happy. I fancy you are exceeding busy, and that you have such a rich harvest of disorders ready to cut down, that the healthy are excluded by the sick from all consideration. I write now to inform you that I have not yet got a sight either of Hartley or Priestley, except what I see of the latter in the "London Review," and from the large extracts there I draw conclusions not much to the credit of the author's temper, candour, or knowledge of his subject. Cockin tells me you are so engaged you have not yet perused him; but I dare say when you examine him in his metaphysical capacity the high opinion you have formed of him from his other works will be a little lowered. He appears indeed to me to have given very little attention to his subject; but seems to write for the sake of multiplying books, and depends upon the success of his other performances as sufficient security for the praise of this. He imagines himself possessed of such a stock of reputation as can never be exhausted; like a young spendthrift just come to a large fortune, he fancies it can never be spent — or like a merchant who has enriched himself by dealing in one commodity, he ventures deep now in articles with which he is not sufficiently acquainted, I wish he may not become at last a bankrupt or very much contract the circle of his credit. He fancies he has conquered the natural world, and sighs now for the conquest of the intellectual; but a different kind of genius will be necessary to constitute a conqueror in this department. The man who has always bent a keen eye on external objects to observe the relations, &c., that subsist amongst them, will find himself much cramped in his facility of directing his observation to the internal operations of his own mind — as the longest sight sees the nearest objects ill defined. I have meditated a short answer to Priestley, where I shall proceed upon very simple grounds. This you shall see when I have arranged my matter — which cannot be till I have carefully perused the book itself. I think he may easily be

reduced *ad absurdum*. Either Beattie, I am convinced, must be nearly right, or truth and falsehood, right and wrong, have been indiscriminately blended without the possibility of a separation, which will arraign the goodness of the Deity, tend to downright atheism, or introduce all the horrors of scepticism. But perhaps upon the whole mankind may be treated in the article of truth as they are in that of happiness, where strong desires are planted, but desires without an object. Happiness is sought by all, but found by none; and moral truth, which we have all an innate desire of discerning, like Proteus, changes shapes in different ages and in different nations, and eludes the grasp, leaving us convinced of this truth alone—that truth cannot be found. To carry the matter a little further, as we call ourselves happy when not sensibly miserable, so we fancy ourselves right when not palpably wrong.....

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Dawson,

THOS. WILSON.

Surgeon, Sedbergh.

Rev. John Cranke to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Trin. Coll. Cam. Feb. 2nd, 1783.

Dear Sir: Stepping into my bookseller's a while ago, I saw a smart little man, octavo size, in company with the great folio Dr. Johnson. I thought I knew something of his face, and upon closer examination I was very agreeably surprised to find him my good friend and old school-fellow T. Wilson. I immediately conducted him to my rooms, very cordially (as heretofore) taking him under my arm. We have been very happy together in talking about affairs of old time. He has brought to my recollection many pleasing and useful subjects which we had studied together at school, but which I had almost lost in the hurry and bustle of resort. I introduced him to some of my friends, who are much pleased with him and think him a very sensible, learned, and ingenious man. Dr. Watson the great Bishop of Llandaff has invited him to his house, and speaks much in his commendation.

In short the little man is so much liked in the University that we shall certainly give him a degree when he is of higher standing, i.e. so as to be visible from the *rostra* in the schools. As I think you know something of the man, I dare say you will be glad to hear of his kind reception here. But we will talk more about him when I have the pleasure of seeing you, which I am fully determined shall be in the course of the summer, though I am a little afraid of being soused in the "Trough of Bolan" [Bowland].

I am dear Sir,
Your most sincere friend,

JOHN CRANKE.¹

P.S. I have lost my fellow-tutor Mr. Therond,² and am now plen. po. I have heard nothing about the young gentleman you once mentioned as likely to come to this college.

The Rev. Thos. Wilson,
Clitheroe, Lancashire.

By Caxton.

Rev. John Cranke to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Trin. Coll. Cam. April 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter found me in the midst of my L. Day accounts, confused and perplexed, so that I mislaid it, or you would have had an answer sooner. I am much obliged to you for the *copy* of Dr. J[ohnson]'s letter, but more so for your own,

¹ John Cranke, son of Mr. James Cranke the portrait painter (he ob. October 1780, æt. 73), was born at Urswick near Ulverstone, educated at Sedburgh, and afterwards a Fellow, Tutor, and Bursar of Trinity College Cambridge, B.A. 1771, M.A. 1774, B.D. 1792. He was presented by his College in 1798 to the well endowed and pleasant Vicarage of Gainford on the Tees, near Darlington. He was a bachelor, a very facetious but sometimes an indecorous correspondent, and complained of having lived so long in college that he was a bad parish priest. His nephew was sent by him to Mr. Wilson's school.

² Henry Therond, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1757, M.A. 1760, Proctor (1776) and Taxor (1777) of the University. He was Vicar of Chesterton near Cambridge, and died of consumption at Mr. Brooksbank's, at Enfield, November 1, 1782, unmarried.

which is indeed an *original*. Did Mr. Hutton live nearer you, I should suspect you and he had laid your heads together.

The Bishop of Llandaff resides most in London, and has not been here [of] some time. Though he had been here, I should not have thought it proper to have waited on him with your request, as he might perhaps have considered it as a *puff* in which he would not be concerned; particularly at this time, when an epigram has just come out which is said to hurt the Doctor. Next to his door hung an old sign of Bishop Blaze, which was taken down and a common sign put up soon after Dr. W.[atson] was made Bishop of Llandaff.¹ On which a wit of our Coll. wrote the following

EPIGRAM.

"Two of a trade can ne'er agree,"

No proverb e'er was juster :

Poor *Bishop Blaze* knock'd down we see

To set up *Bishop Bluster*.

You may communicate this to Starkie, as it will make him laugh; but pray don't let it *get wind* and be *blazed* abroad, for it is too severe, and Dr. W's. character is such as ought not to be sported with.

I don't doubt of your book's selling well from its real use. I only wish you had kept to yourself your private thoughts on

¹ He was consecrated 20th October 1782, and ob. 4th July 1816. The following lines, occasioned by his "Apology for the Bible," which demolished the superficial reasonings and sophistries of Paine, may be added as a foil to this Epigram :

"The bold Goliath of a lawless band

Stalk'd, with insulting triumph, thro' the land ;

And, as across the path of Truth he trod,

'Defi'd the armies of the Living God !'

LLANDAFF came forth, and, cloth'd in raiment white,

Upheld the mirror of eternal light,

The bond and seal of man's redemption show'd,

Whilst firm belief in every bosom glow'd.

The vile Blasphemer, struck with sudden fear,

Dropp'd from his trembling hand the faithless spear."

several subjects. Remember me to Starkie, and believe me ever

Your sincere friend,
JOHN CRANKE.

Rev. Dr. Patten to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Warrington, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have to thank you for your favour inclosing my friend Johnson's letter (on whose kind reception of your address I congratulate you) and for the acceptable present of your book. I think it may do good service to the dealers in classic ware; but I observe with concern that it contains an article, carefully pointed out to the public by the libertine reviewers, which I fear will very mischievously operate upon untaught and unsettled minds.

I have heard your account of the Evil Spirit (who is so frequently and so graphically pointed out in the Holy Scriptures) spoken of by many judicious persons, and by none of them without expressions of horror.

The real existence of God himself is not, I think, more strongly and decisively marked in the holy Bible than that of "the *old serpent* who is called *the Devil* and *Satan*, who deceiveth the whole world," as St. John describes him. And I hope you will pardon me if I say I cannot acquit you of the charge of having advanced great and dangerous errors in detailing this new doctrine of yours.

1. You place the existence of the *Devil* in the same rank with that of *ghosts* and *fairies*; degrading the declarations of the word of God to the level of the idle and extravagant figments of vulgar tradition! But you urge,

2. That "though the doctrine of Devilism is frequently alluded to in the Scriptures," it is "in conformity, perhaps, to vulgar prejudices."

Now supposing a vulgar prejudice to have subsisted in favour of this doctrine, it is, yet, a very important article in the divine history of the fall and restoration of mankind. And is it suitable to

the reverence we owe to the divine authority of that history to suppose it would, in *such* an article, have asserted a falsehood "in conformity to vulgar prejudices"?

But, in truth, this doctrine has nothing to do with any vulgar prejudice. The facts relating to the Devil which the Scripture asserts and alludes to, are altogether *scriptural*; and neither the learned nor the vulgar had ever any conception of that Evil Spirit, such as he is there represented, but from the sacred volume. For,

What philosophy, what vulgar tradition, did ever apprise the world even of the *name* of the *Devil* or *Satan* or *the old serpent*, or ever teach that an Evil Spirit, "now working," according to St. Paul, "in the children of disobedience," did seduce the mother of mankind to violate the divine command; or represent the Devil as the *adversary* and the *tempter* [*ο Πειραζων*] of the whole human race, and assiduously labouring to betray men into evil? These notices flow only from the sacred fountain, nor had *vulgar prejudices* ever suggested a single iota concerning them.

3. You charge the Scripture with asserting a multiplicity of devils, and tell us "a whole legion (6000) is said to have inhabited the body of one man." But the Scripture exhibits throughout only *one being* of that denomination. We frequently, indeed, read there of *Δαιμονες*, but nowhere of *Διαβολοι*. Whether he possesses "the knowledge of future events," is a disputed point. It is nowhere asserted in Scripture; and the accounts of oracular responses, in the days of heathenism, attributed to him, are so imperfect and unauthenticated, that one may fairly ascribe those that history records to the "cunning craftiness of men," rather than to the interference of the Evil Spirit.

4. You insinuate that no more is signified *in general acceptation* by the word *Devil*, than "that *propensity to ill* observable in the human mind." You would, I flatter myself, have suppressed this strange assertion if you had considered how few serious and understanding Christians have adopted, or are likely to adopt, your new doctrine. I hear, for my own part, of only one writer who has

positively denied the existence of this Evil Spirit, and *I can assure you* that his arguments in support of his opinions are “most lame and impotent.” And perhaps you would not only have suppressed but abandoned your insinuation if the following particulars, or any of them, had occurred to you.

(1.) St. John assigns to the Devil *the same reality of being* as to God, when he says (ch. iii. 10. 1st Ep.) “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the Devil;” viz. that he that is “of God” or “born of God” (for both expressions are used there) “doth not commit sin, but he that committeth sin is of the Devil.”

(2.) Our blessed Lord also appears to attribute to him the same real existence when he asserts (John viii.) that he is a liar and the father of falsehood — a murderer *from the beginning* — evidently alluding to his having murdered, or brought death upon, the human race by his lying to Eve when “*in the beginning* God created the heaven and the earth — and made man in his own image.”

(3.) The same divine authority hath intimated to us that an “everlasting fire is prepared for the Devil and his angels.” With what consonance to the oriental, or to any rational mode of expression, with what glimpse of sense can you here substitute *propensity to ill* in the place of the Devil and his angels?

(4.) The sacred history circumstantially relates that Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil, and that he accordingly did try him with various temptations. Was, then, this *tempter* (as he is styled in this history) a *real being*? or was Jesus — the holy, sinless Son of God, God himself residing in a human body — was He tempted by his *propensity to ill*? I hope you will not say it. And yet you must either say so, or your doctrine is, by this Scripture, entirely overthrown.

(5.) You rightly observe that the word *Devil* has been, like occult qualities, found of great use in the solution of various difficulties; often, I grant, falsely and preposterously; but these misconceptions of the Devil do not, as you insinuate, prove his non-existence, any more than the falsely ascribing human calamities to divine vengeance proves the non-existence of God.

But if we are at liberty to resolve *some* of the plain declarations of Scripture into mere allegory, why may not the same liberty be taken with *them all*? If you may annihilate *the Devil*, so often spoken of there as a real being, and assert that *nothing more is signified by that word than that propensity to ill observable in the human mind*, I see not why an atheist may not be allowed to say there is no God, upon the same principle, and tell us that *nothing more is signified by that word than that propensity to promote animal and rational enjoyment observable in nature*.

(6.) You tell us "the doctrine of Devilism appears to have been borrowed from the Persian theology, and to have been conjured up by philosophers, at a nonplus to account for the origin of evil."

The Persian theology contained not a syllable concerning the *Devil*. It taught, indeed, the existence of an evil principle, restless in its endeavour to thwart and counteract the good principle. It was evidently borrowed from the more ancient theology of the Bible. By that we are expressly taught that sinfulness or moral evil entered into the human nature and constitution by the envious and successful influence of that evil spirit, the "old serpent," who is called the Devil and Satan, who, in St. Paul's expression, "deceived Eve," and, according to St. John's, "deceiveth the whole world." We are farther taught that Jesus Christ was manifested that He might remove, do away, this moral evil, "the work of the Devil," and bring men "from the power of Satan unto God, for the abolition of sin, and an introduction to a heavenly inheritance" (Acts xxvi.), by ruining, overthrowing, "him who hath the power of death, that is, the Devil."

The *doctrine, of Devilism* was not "conjured up by philosophers," but communicated to mankind by the Spirit of God, to apprise us of the existence of a malevolent spirit, the true and only cause or origin of moral evil, and to caution us against his "wiles," and "devices," and "snares," and "fiery darts;" that is, his restless attempts, in spiritual suggestions, to overthrow our happiness by tempting us, as he tempted our first parents, to revolt from the authority of God.

If you ask me how this Evil Spirit can tempt or incite men to sin, I must ask you, in my turn, how the Spirit of God can incite them to virtuous thoughts and deeds? We know nothing of the nature and agency of spirits but from divine information; but from that we learn that the Evil Spirit called the Devil can and does influence the minds of men, as the Spirit of God influences them. Satan, we are expressly told, entered into Judas; and St. John asserts in effect, that he who knoweth God *hath* the Spirit of truth, and that he who is not of God *hath* the Spirit of error. Greater, saith our Lord to his disciples, is He that is in you—He, the Spirit of truth—than he that is in the world; the same Spirit no doubt, who, as St. Paul expresses it, “worketh in the children of disobedience.” Nor would I be positive to deny what Tertullian has somewhere asserted: *Spiritus qui in nobis est, aut Dei est aut Diaboli.*

Our Lord tells the Pharisees, “ye are of your father the Devil.” Now, if they in whom the Spirit of God dwelleth are therefore called the sons of God, the Pharisees must have been pronounced the sons of the Devil for the like reason, because the spirit of the Devil dwelt in them. This seems to be intimated concerning Cain where he is said to have been *of that wicked one*, slaying his brother.

In all that I have been asserting on this subject I am, you see, supported by the express authority and declarations of the Word of God; and I cannot guess what could induce you so dogmatically to set them aside, except that either you had not considered them, or that they seem to “bring strange things to your ears.” The doctrine of the existence and influence of that old serpent called the Devil and Satan, is perhaps “a stumbling-block” to you—so was “Christ crucified” to the obstinate Jews; perhaps it is “foolishness” to you—so it was to the philosophic Greeks. But you and I must not reject the doctrines and declarations of God’s Word, merely because they seem strange and unaccountable. Such a procedure would, I fear, effectually prove us to be “led captive” by that malevolent Evil Spirit, whose existence you have, I wish I could not say rashly, taken upon you to deny.

That you may see, and speedily abandon, your dangerous error,
is the hearty prayer of,

Dear Sir, your sincere well-wisher
and obliged Friend,

THO. PATTEN.¹

To the Reverend Mr. Wilson,
Clithero.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Rev. Dr. Patten.

Clitheroe, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your philippic was duly received, and merited an earlier answer; but I shall not take up your time with apologies. You wield the weapons of controversy with a very masterly hand; you are an excellent advocate, but I have a very bad client; and your strictures, as being well written, command my admiration, but as being well intended, they require my acknowledgements, for there is great perspicuity in your method, and candour in your remarks. I must, however, plead not guilty to the indictment. It was, I assure you, far from my intention to introduce a new doctrine by denying the existence of the Devil. The article which is the subject of your observations perhaps may be inaccurately worded, and may bear on a cursory perusal the construction you have put upon it. I have expressed no opinion of my own on the subject. In saying that the doctrine of Devilism appears to have been borrowed, &c., I meant only to insinuate that the common opinion of the Devil's being the author of *all* the evil in the world, which very much prevailed, is of Persian original.

Nor can it be conceived that there would be any material alteration in the world supposing the Devil to be annihilated. The passions and propensities of human nature would produce all the effects which are at present observable. Vice would prevail and every evil work, and man, without the temptations of the Devil, would become a tempter to himself. It might further be added,

¹ For some account of the Rev. Dr. Patten, Rector of Childrey, and the learned friend of Dr. Samuel Johnson, see *Remains of Byron*, vol ii. part ii. p. 503, *Note*.

that on a supposition that the Devil infuses bad thoughts and inclinations into the minds of men, we might reasonably expect that there would be some characteristic mark whereby to distinguish the suggestions of the evil spirit from the suggestions of our corrupt nature.....

I am, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours.

To the Rev. Dr. Patten,
Childrey.

THOMAS WILSON.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.¹

Clitheroe, April 7th, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to assure you that both your sons are well, and have acquitted themselves to my entire satisfaction. They are regular in their conduct, attentive to instructions, and obedient in their deportment. Your older son [Charles] is still pursuing the Classics; and I think that will be more useful to him than any other line of study that could be pointed out, as nothing tends more to enlarge the mind, and to impress upon it the principles of taste and sound reasoning. The attention which is required to trace the connection betwixt words so variously transposed, as they are in Greek and Latin, exercises at once the reasoning powers and fixes the habit of industry, which in every profession is of the utmost consequence. His leisure hours are spent in a manner

¹ Thomas Staniforth Esq. Mayor of Liverpool in 1797, died in that town in December 1803, and Mr. Wilson keenly felt the loss of a man "whose virtues, unaffected piety, amiable disposition, disinterested friendship, and general philanthropy, he was assured would not soon be equalled," and in saying this he believed he merely expressed the general opinion. As the death of Mr. Staniforth was concealed from his wife for some days after it had taken place, he had probably died suddenly. His eldest son Charles died of consumption in January 1795, and Mr. Wilson wrote a dull paragraph on the occasion, which he sent "to Mr. Gore for his newspaper." The other son, Samuel Staniforth Esq., was Mayor of Liverpool in 1809, an active magistrate and a very benevolent man. He was also the Government Distributor of Stamps in that town, and an influential supporter of Mr. Pitt's administration. Through life he cherished the highest regard for his old schoolmaster, who was frequently a welcome guest in Liverpool.

more immediately suited to his future destination, and he will be now called upon to attend strictly to writing and accompts. Your son Samuel possesses a vigorous mind, and is blest with a strong share of natural understanding, but he cannot so easily submit to the labours of study. He is more inclined to gather knowledge from observation than from books. He has an eager thirst for science, but would rather gratify it by hearing than by reading; he likes the treasure but would not dig the mine. I beg, however, not to be understood as suggesting to you that he is idle, because this is not the case. I am rather describing his natural disposition than charging him with neglect of duty. He reads a good deal and remembers what he has read; but he prefers the book of nature to the writings of men, and would rather derive knowledge from the conversation of learned men than toil after it in their works. His observation of what passes before him is accurate; and his remarks are shrewd, with a zest of humour and good natured point. I sincerely congratulate you on the disposition of both your sons, and can scarcely entertain a doubt of their being good children, good men, and useful members of society.....

Yours sincerely,

THOS. WILSON.

Mr. T. Staniforth,
Merchant, Liverpool.

Rev. R. Ormerod¹ to the Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Christ College, Camb. April 28th, 1784.

Dear Sir: Amidst such a multiplicity of employment as you are engaged in, I can easily conceive that you can find very little time

¹ Richard Ormerod of Christ College, Cambridge, was born in 1751 of humble parents resident at Goodshaw in Rossendale, his father, like Porson's, being the parish clerk. He was educated at Clitheroe School, and his abilities being duly appreciated, Mr. Wilson introduced him to the favourable notice of Bishop Porteus, by whom he was sent to Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1783, M.A. 1787. He was appointed Domestic Chaplain to his excellent patron, and collated by him 30th November 1789 to the Prebend of Neasdon in St. Paul's Cathedral, and afterwards to the Vicarage of Kensington. He published "Remarks on Priestley's Disquisitions on Matter and Spirit," 8vo, 1786, and "A Sermon preached at Witham

to devote to writing letters ; and therefore I am perfectly happy to be amongst the number of those who possess so much of your friendship and esteem as to be remembered after so long an absence.

I meant to have answered the queries you proposed immediately ; but was prevented by some labours which came upon me unexpectedly, requiring my particular attention. However, I now attempt to do it with much pleasure. The chapter in question is certainly a very difficult one, and has never yet been cleared up to the satisfaction of the generality of readers. And with regard to the 16th verse and the person alluded to in it, the original text appears to leave the matter in the same doubt and uncertainty as the present English translation leaves it. Some of the most learned Hebræans, critics, and commentators, are divided in their opinions ; one considering it as referring to the prophet's son, another to Immanuel. And therefore instead of presuming to propose my opinion against such authorities, I must beg leave to recommend it to your friend to consult them. The best commentators on this passage I think are Vitringa, Usher, Calvin, Tremellius, Cocceius, and Bishop Lowth.

With regard to the 15th verse, I think I may venture to assert that the text would appear deficient should it be taken away. This is all that I can say in answer to your queries. There is another circumstance which perhaps may be worth mentioning, and that is concerning the number of years, &c., verse 8th. Instead of 60, there is a MS. in St. John's Library which reads 20, and Dr. Kennicott has taken notice of it in his Heb. Bible. I have seen the MS. myself.

in Essex at the Visitation of the Bishop of London, May 29, 1794," 8vo. He died May 24, 1816, æt. 64, and his parishioners erected a monument to his memory in Kensington Church ; and another monument, placed by lamenting friends in the cloisters of New College, Oxford, commemorates his second son, Thomas Holden Ormerod : " Juvenis moribus ingenio, doctrinâ ornatissimus, inter suorum studia, academia plausus, immaturè abreptus A.S. M.D.CCCXVIII." — *Gent. Mag.* vol. lxxxvi. part i. p. 568 ; Le Neve's *Fasti* (*Duffus Hardy*), vol. ii. p. 416 ; Ormerod's *Parentalia*, p. 6, *Note* (not published).

Harris,¹ whom you were so good as to inquire after, is very well; he makes very good use of his time and opportunities, and I have no doubt will do extremely well. He has done himself much credit in a classical and mathematical examination which he has lately undergone, and the Society has promised him a handsome reward. He is remarkably steady and industrious. I often see him and take pleasure in encouraging and assisting him. I cannot quite give the same account of Newton, though he is much steadier than he was, and I hope will now go on better. I sometimes give him a little advice, and he seems obliged to me for it. I was sorry to hear of William Nowell's² death. It must afflict Mrs. Wilson very much, but his having acquitted himself so much to his honour will be some consolation to her, and I hope her mind by this time is able "to seek for it."

The chaplaincy which the Bishop of Chester³ has procured for me is that of Downing College, which is sometime to be erected in this University; but when, I know not; and the prospect is so remote at present, that I am in doubt whether I shall ever be benefited by it. The Society is to consist of laymen, excepting the two chaplains, whose salaries are to be £60 per annum. But the Bishop of Chester has procured for me a small vicarage about five miles from Cambridge since you saw him, which I am now possessed of. I hope it will enable me to live in the University till a fellowship or some other preferment falls out. The Bishop continues to be very kind to me; he has sent me money frequently since I came to the University. When I took my degree, which was last Christmas,

¹ Robert Harris, son of Mr. Robert Harris of Clitheroe, was educated by Mr. Wilson, afterwards of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, B.A. 1787, M.A. 1790, B.D. 1797, and in the latter year licensed to the Perpetual Curacy of St. George's, Preston, in Lancashire, where, at the patriarchal age of 91, he still continues to instruct his flock as well from the pulpit as by the eloquent example of a holy life, retaining his vigorous faculties and the affectionate regard of many friends.

² He was Mrs. Wilson's son by the Rev. Henry Nowell, her first husband, and died in 1783, a midshipman on board the *Medea*, Captain Gower, who described him as "a gallant seaman," and entitled to "a considerable share of prize-money for his bravery and success in two engagements." — *Letter*, Jan. 19, 1784.

³ Beilby Porteus, Bishop of Chester 1777, translated to London 1787, ob. 1809.

he sent me a draught [draft] for £20. For my first acquaintance with this excellent man and good patron I know I am entirely indebted to you, and I can never forget your kindness to me at that time. I wish I was able to come into Lancashire to see my friends; but this I shall not be able to effect till I have got some better preferment.

I am, dear Sir, your very obliged
and obedient servant,

R. ORMEROD.

P.S. I desire my best respects to Mrs. Wilson.

Please to make my compliments to Mr. Heaton,¹ and tell him I wish to hear from him.

Rev. Mr. Wilson, Clitheroe,
near Preston, Lancashire.

Rev. Peter Cunningham² to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Eyam, near Tideswell, 26th July 1788.

Dear Sir: You will be surprised, I dare say, to receive this letter from one who would willingly flatter himself that he still retains a place in your friendly remembrance and good wishes. The writer may very truly affirm that during the many years that have elapsed since he bade Mr. Wilson farewell at Slaidburne, he has never ceased to think of him with his wonted respect and regard, and he has sincerely rejoiced whenever he has accidentally heard of his welfare and increasing literary reputation.

It was with much pleasure that I heard my friend Mr. Hardy acquaint me with his intention of placing one of his promising olive-branches³ under your tutelary care and cultivation. What I

¹ The Rev. Thomas Heaton, Incumbent of Whitewell and Second Master of Clitheroe Grammar School from 1775 to his death in 1806. He was twice married, and left a widow and several children, in whose behalf Mr. Wilson actively and most humanely interested himself.

² For some account of the Rev. Peter Cunningham, see Nichols's *Literary History*, vol. vi. p. 56.

³ This "promising olive branch" was afterwards John Hardy Esq. M.P. for Bradford, an able and eloquent member of the Senate, and distinguished by his zeal for the English Church.

have said to him on this subject I am certain has not lessened the well-founded hopes he expresses of his son's future progress in classical and useful literature; and he seemed to feel himself very happy with the assurance I thought our former intimate acquaintance authorised me to give him of the parental attention that would be paid to his young man's health and moral conduct. Were I disposed to flatter you, I should acquaint you with what the Bishop of London said as an eulogy on your school when you were so happy as to have that accomplished prelate for your diocesan.¹ But it is needless; for I well know that superior minds, intent upon the conscientious performance of very arduous duties, enjoy a much sublimer reward than what is to be derived from the evanescent nature of all human praise.

Having been more stationary in my curacy of Eyam during nearly these thirteen years, than I used to be in the former variegated and adversely-shaded part of my life, I have few eventful stories to tell you relative to myself. That I have thoroughly reconciled myself, however, to the obscurity and sequestered nature of my situation, and that I am proof against the most specious allurements of ambition, you will allow, when I acquaint you that I would not avail myself of my Lord Rodney's² kind overture to recommend me to his friend the late Duke of Rutland,³ when Viceroy of

¹ Porteus.

² George Brydges Rodney, born 1718, promoted in 1762 to the rank of Vice-Admiral, created a Baronet in 1764, and elevated to the peerage as Baron Rodney in 1782 for his naval victories, with £2000 a year to himself and his successors. He died in 1792.

³ Charles, fourth Duke of Rutland K.G., nominated Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1784, in which important government he died at the early age of 33 in 1787. Bishop Watson's eulogium of his Grace in the House of Peers was an admirable tribute from an old college tutor to the memory of a favourite pupil, and well merited. The Duke was the early patron of Crabbe, whose concluding lines of "The Library" are familiar to all:—

"Some generous friend of ample power possess'd;
Some feeling heart that bleeds for the distress'd;
Some breast that glows with virtues all divine;
Some noble RUTLAND! misery's friend and thine."

Ireland; and that I have more recently declined availing myself of an opportunity afforded me by other friends, of filling the chaplaincy to the British factory at Smyrna. The Duke of Chandos, who is the present patron of Eyam, and has lately disposed of the reversion,¹ has, with peculiar condescension and benignity, interested himself to render my request to his Grace effectual, that I may not be disturbed in my curacy by the future rector; and that is all the favour I desire.

It was the poem of "The Naval Triumph," transmitted to my Lord Rodney soon after his return from the West Indies, that first introduced me to the notice of that gallant, ill-requited veteran commander; by whom, when I was in town about four years since, I had the honour and the happiness of being twice entertained with the most flattering tokens of respect and attention. An incorrect and mutilated edition of the "Naval Triumph" was printed in London. If ever the poem should live to a second impression, or should be collected among the trifles I have composed of late years, and which I am much encouraged to publish, you may depend upon receiving a copy.

The little poem of "The Russian Prophecy" that solicits your acceptance ("*parvum non parvæ amicitiae pignus*") has, by this time, through the favour of the Russian Secretary Monsieur Lisakewitz, embarked with several of its fellows to St. Petersburg; but I am far from expecting any beneficial consequences will be derived to the author from this circumstance.

The other copy of the "Russian Prophecy" I must beg the favour of you to transmit, the first opportunity, to Dr. St. Clare.² You will add greatly to the favour, Sir, if at the same time you would express my anxious wishes to the Doctor that he would immediately transmit to me a box entrusted to his care by Mrs. Parker of Storth. It may be directed to me to the care of my printer, Mr.

¹ To the Duke of Devonshire, in whose family the patronage is still vested.

² William St. Clare M.D., a native of Nottingham, settled in Clitheroe as a general medical practitioner in 1772, and afterwards removed to Preston in the same county, where he had an extensive practice; and where he died full of years and honours.

Gales, bookseller at Sheffield. The box contains, besides some books, forty-eight manuscript sermons, and some family letters from the West Indies. The sermons will be a great relief to me, considering the literary exertions I shall be obliged to make between the present summer and the next.

I remain, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

PETER CUNNINGHAM.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, October 31st, 1788.

Dear Sir: Give me leave to recommend to your notice and kind reception two strangers, and [to] solicit for them a place at your table, where, I doubt not, they will contribute something to your entertainment. They were once lively to an extreme, and had a certain agreeable wildness about them; but, having suffered much undeserved persecution in the world, they contracted a remarkable degree of timidity. They will set their faces towards Liverpool to-morrow; and, though they are famous for doubling, shifting, and tacking about, I hope, in this instance, they will keep the direct road and be with you in due time. This I believe is the first time they ever travelled in a stage coach; but, as the weather is cool, this mode of conveyance, I trust, will have no bad effect upon them; and should it be intensely cold, they are pretty well defended against it, as they are both clothed in fur. They are of the family of the *Hares*, who are remarkable for living much upon *form*. They have resided chiefly in the country, sometimes at their *family seat*, and sometimes visiting about in the neighbourhood. One of the same name, but not of the same blood, I conceive, rose to great eminence in the Church, and was held in high esteem for his piety.

The two West Indians whom you recommended to my care are both very well, but begin to shudder at the approach of winter. They are very well-disposed and well-behaved boys. As their names are *Callender* and *Weekes*, I consider myself as almost provided with an almanac for the new year. Mrs. W. and Miss

Nowell join in general compliments to yourself, Mrs. Staniforth, and the whole fireside, with,

Dear Sir, yours sincerely,

Thomas Staniforth Esq.

T. WILSON.

Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, April 12th, 1789.

Dear Sir: Your annual donation came seasonably to hand, and was received safe and sound: I wish I had any other return in my power to make besides thanks; but, as this is not the case, you will be kind enough to accept them by way of composition for the debt. Your regularity in sending lamb to Clitheroe has been such that there is some danger of my claiming it in future under the idea of an Easter due; for an unceasing round of favours is very apt to wear away the sense of obligation: this at least takes place in some minds, and gratitude rarely keeps pace with generosity.

I was much pleased to observe, from the papers, that Liverpool distinguished itself so greatly in expressing its joy on his Majesty's happy recovery. The town caught the flame of patriotism, and seems to have exhibited a full blaze of loyalty. Clitheroe sympathized with the nation at large, and was not sparing of farthing candles on the occasion; nay, it even went to the expense of a tar-barrel. I look upon the restoration of the King as one of the most providential events this country ever experienced; I may even say his indisposition itself was a fortunate circumstance; for it has unmasked some of our mock patriots, and has produced an instance of the most genuine public spirit. The steady conduct of Mr. Pitt, my Lord Chancellor, and the glorious majority of both Houses in support of the people's rights in appointing a Regency, cannot be too much applauded; especially as their votes must make them obnoxious to the Prince, and consequently cut them off from any expectation of sharing the loaves and fishes in a new administration. The King's temporary incapacity has likewise had this beneficial effect --- it has carried the Revolution principles to their

full extent, and perfected what was left deficient by our forefathers. Thus the ways of Providence, though to us dark and mysterious, terminate in goodness, and good is educed from ill; the root may indeed be bitter sometimes, but the fruit is excellent.

Liverpool I suppose will again be alarmed for the slave trade; but I cannot suppose an abolition will be effected. The many sensible pamphlets on the subject, I think, must have opened the eyes of the nation, and taught the senators wisdom. Humanity must have recovered its senses, and see the absurdity of throwing away the property of thousands to remove an imaginary evil; for many of the evils complained of seem only to exist in the pamphlets of speculative writers.

I hope Mr. Charles continues stout and well, and that Samuel is no worse for his excursion. Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join in compliments and every good wish to yourself, Mrs. Staniforth, the young ladies and your sons, with,

Sir, yours sincerely,

THOS. WILSON.

I hope to drink tea with Mrs. Staniforth at her villa on my next visit; come see, rural felicity!

Thomas Staniforth Esq.

Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, May 3rd, 1789.

Dear Sir: As you have frequently expressed your intention of making an excursion to Clitheroe and Whitewell, upon an angling scheme, and have as frequently deferred the execution of it; the fish of Ribble and Hodder have taken your behaviour into consideration, and resolved nem. con. that if *you* will not visit *them*, *they* will visit *you*. A party of respectable trouts from both rivers have accordingly been selected, and are commissioned to wait upon you as delegates in the name of their whole community, to remonstrate with you on your dilatory conduct, and to solicit a more favourable attention in future. As they have laid their *heads together* upon

this occasion, I hope what they have to offer will be worth your notice, be graciously received, and permitted, at least, to *lie upon your table*. You will make every allowance for them when you consider how much they are at present out of their *proper element*. They only wish to be estimated according to their *own scale*. I trust you will find them *nice*, perhaps a little *finical*. As their errand was to a respectable member of a respectable corporation, you will observe that the *mace* has been well remembered; they attend you, therefore, in good style as well as *proper season*.

I have seen Cross since his visit at Liverpool, who seems greatly pleased with his excursion, and astonished at the loyalty of the people, their sumptuous manner of expressing it, the magnificence of the ball, and the regularity with which the numerous meeting was conducted. His companion Miss Rigby, on her return to Preston, began a detail of what she had seen, has been incessantly talking ever since, and had not finished her description when the last advices came away.

I was glad to hear your family were all well. Cross indeed told me that Charles complained of a tooth; I am sorry any offence is found in his mouth, but hope he is in good health in spite of his teeth.

Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join me in compliments to Mrs. Staniforth, yourself, and Co.

Yours sincerely,

THOS. WILSON.

Thomas Staniforth Esq.

Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

With a pot of fish, car. p^d.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, May 13th, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your kind letter was duly received, as was your annual offering; and my acknowledgments are due for both.

I wish to be with you just now, as the pleasantest season of the year to those who have any taste for rural scenery. Nature, that most exquisite painter, has now all her colours ready for laying on,

and every day presents you with fresh improvements of the piece, which is formed upon the most magnificent plan and is executing with the most desirable skill. The east winds, however, in this country at least, had lately thrown dame Nature into the dumps, her painting was obstructed, and her rich carpet-work was at a stand-still. But the weather is now become seasonable, and her fruits, flowers and foliage are in a most promising state again. My eye has just caught, through the window, the charming view of a little flock of lambs, taking their gambols and running their evening race, as if they meant by their cheerfulness to express their gratitude before they go to rest for the plenty which their pasture affords them. I hope Broad Green is not without a prospect of this kind, which I think is the most pleasing which the country can exhibit, and puts me in mind, for the moment, of the happiness of the golden age, whilst the world was young and innocent. But yonder goes a little urchin of a schoolboy, with an eye keenly bent upon the hedge-row, and busily peeping for a bird's nest. This is nature too, but in a less pleasing view. From what I can observe this fine evening from my window, I can form a very amusing idea to myself of that variety of pleasing objects which will meet the inquisitive eye of Mrs. Staniforth in her retreat, and have a strong tendency to soothe the mind into cheerful tranquillity.

I have just seen Tarleton's¹ pamphlet, or rather his speech, upon the slave trade. It proves that he has taken some pains upon the subject, and that he does not want talents if he will only put them out to usury.

What is the opinion of your politicians concerning a war with Russia? Does the cloud seem to thicken, or will it vanish without a burst of thunder? The sentiments of our borough *quid nunc's* are that Mr. Pitt has timed his interference so well that, instead of involving us in a war, he is certain to ensure a continuance of peace; and what signifies the expense of an armament, if looking fierce for a few weeks can bring about a general pacifi-

¹ See ante, p. 42, Note 8.

cation, and produce a long series of tranquillity and national prosperity? Manchester, you see, is obtruding itself again upon public notice, by resolutions and counter-resolutions, and deciding upon the minister's motives before they know what they are, and censuring his conduct where, perhaps, he will deserve their thanks.

Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join me in compliments and best wishes to you and yours, whether in town or country.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

Thos. Staniforth, Esq.,

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, December 1st, 1791.

Dear Sir: We are much obliged to your attention and kindness in sending us the bears and biscuits and procuring us the coffee. Everything came safe to Clitheroe, and the bears behaved [as] quietly upon the road as could be expected; they broke the head indeed of the bread barrel, and crushed a few of the biscuits, but the fragments came *clean* to hand, and nothing was lost. The bruises have now taken their places as sentinels at the two different doors, and are so perfectly gentle that we several times a day tread and trample upon them with the greatest ease and safety.

I should have written to you immediately after the receipt of the different articles, but was in hopes I could have sent you a brace of hares in return for the bears, but have not been able to accomplish my purpose. The Philistines have been upon us from Manchester,¹ and, in defiance of the laws of the land and the rules

¹ My old and excellent friend, the Rev. John Henderson, Incumbent of Colne, informs me that forty years ago he heard the following anecdote related at Clitheroe: A young gentleman from Manchester, of the "Verdant Green" class of "Philistines," having visited the neighbourhood of Clitheroe for the purpose of shooting woodcocks, spent his evening at the Swan Inn, where he found in the traveller's room an amusing old gentleman enjoying his pipe, and, rich in conversational powers, displaying keen wit and wonderful acuteness of observation. Mr. Wilson—for it proved to be he—gravely professed to sympathise with the young sportsman on his bad day's sport, for he had not bagged a single woodcock, which was considered ill luck, as the old gentle-

of politeness, have swept off, *vi et armis*, a great quantity of that species of game. When they show such a violent inclination to invade the *manors* of others it is a pretty strong proof that they have *no manners* of their own; they seem no less fond of *fur* than of *cotton*, and are determined to *force* a trade with us for that commodity. I wish them at Nootka Sound. If I might be indulged in another pun, I should say that these gentlemen come to look for hares amongst us, because they suppose that here they are *thick-set*; but, be the case as it may, they show us what their ideas are of the *rights of man*. Their invasion has introduced a new kind of amusement amongst us, for instead of pursuing the game we hunt the poachers, and beat the beaters instead of the bushes. In short, we differ little from the situation of the Scots and English who lived upon the Borders in former times; for we have depredation on one side and retaliation on the other.

So much for intelligence; now for business. Mrs. Wilson begs you will inform her how much per cent on good security will be given at Liverpool by way of annuity for two lives,¹ and the survivor of the two — one of which is sixty and the other thirty-three; and likewise how much per cent will be given as an annuity for the older life only. If you recollect that she had some conversation with you on the subject, when at Clitheroe, it will need no farther explanation.

The papers will by this time have informed you of the conflagration at the factory of Edisford, near Clitheroe. The loss is said to amount to £15,000, £5,000 of which was insured in London. Not a single article was saved; even the books were consumed. I cannot help congratulating your office on this occasion. The many misfortunes of the very same kind which have

man remarked that, to his knowledge, such were prolific in the neighbourhood. He courteously added that, if permitted, he should have much pleasure in sending him half a dozen. The offer was gratefully accepted. Shortly afterwards a hamper arrived in Manchester, carefully packed and duly addressed. On examining its contents, the young sportsman discovered half a dozen spigots and faucets, *alias* WOOD-CKOCKS!

¹ These lives were her own and her daughter's — Miss Nowell.

so recently happened will deter every office from being concerned with cotton mills; a burnt child will dread the fire.

I observed your name the other day in the firm of a new bank at Liverpool. I sincerely wish you success in your new undertaking, as well as your old engagements. Should you not have your full complement of clerks, a nephew of mine, I dare say, would be happy to be employed. I believe him to be pretty well qualified either for this kind of office or for a merchant's counting-house; he is however very raw, and wants a little practice to perfect his theory. He is, I think, about eighteen or nineteen, and has the character of being sober, tractable and industrious.

While I am speaking of banks, I must not omit mentioning that a bank is just opened at Clitheroe, by J. Parker, J. Parker and Co.; they draw upon Bolders, Adey, Lushington and Co. Thus you see the borough of Clitheroe follows close upon the heels of Liverpool. We exhibit not, however, so ludicrous an imitation as the corporation of Sefton; what we do, though little, is substantial — not a mere echo.

On my remaining page I shall give you a few rules for the regulation of your intended school at Wavertree.

Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join in best wishes to you, Mrs. Staniforth, the nymph and the swains, with, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

THO. WILSON.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Charles Staniforth.

Clitheroe, Feb. 12th, 1792.

Dear Sir: Though you have not heard *from* me since I took my departure from Liverpool, yet I presume you have heard *of* me by your friend Mr. Park,¹ who spent two or three days amongst us

¹ Afterwards the distinguished Judge, whose elegant oratory, scholarly graces and literary attainments induced Mr. Wilson to predict, in the early period of the young lawyer's life, that he would attain the highest dignities of the law. Judge Park was a frequent and welcome guest at Browsholme, where he generally found Mr. Wilson the loadstone of convivial attraction.

very lately with Mr. Harrison. It is needless to inform you that I had a very pleasant trip in the coach from Liverpool, because, you know, I travelled with Cross.¹ We had a great deal of interesting conversation in spite of the rude rumbling of our vehicle, as soon as the tender tear was wiped away which the signals of distress had excited at so early an hour. Our fellow traveller was an American, from Baltimore in Maryland, with a child about six months old upon her lap. The poor creature was rickety and stupid, and consequently very quiet; at least there was no offence in his mouth, but in other respects I cannot say so much in his favour, for he did every thing in the coach but cry. We made many enquiries of the mother concerning her country, and derived some knowledge from her answers. A man must be a very incurious traveller indeed that does not return home wiser from every journey, or at least derive amusement from every occurrence on the road. At Burscough Bridge we received another female, with pleasing features enough, but very shy in conversation. Her we placed opposite to us, and contemplated her person as a tolerable picture stuck up for our examination. At Hoole we met with *one of the natives*, who is truly a character, and entertained us mightily. His name is Manly, brother to a Mr. Manly eminent in the profession of law in the metropolis. The old gentleman had a great deal of gall in his constitution, professed himself a misanthropist, and would have made no bad figure at the head of the sect of the Cynics. We soon found the hobby horse which he

¹ William Cross of Red-Sear near Preston Esq., a gentleman of high reputation in the legal profession, and warmly interested in all that concerned Mr. Wilson, whom he consulted and confidentially trusted on many occasions, whilst Mr. Wilson had equal confidence in his good sense and integrity, and considered his advice in matters of law safe, having sometimes found that the advice of others was "a sad jumble of blatant contradictions." Mr. Cross was one of the political members of the "Parched Peas Club" (see p. 100) a loyal Church and King association in Preston, a supporter of the famous party races on Fulwood Moor, and an adherent of the Derby family against the Corporation interest. He was the only son of "honest John Cross," an attorney at Preston, who married one of the Assheton family. He was born in 1771, and married in 1813 Ellen, daughter of Edward Chaffers of Liverpool, merchant, a

chose to ride, and set him on accordingly. He abused the world in general, fell foul upon professions, and vented his spleen against individuals; but the law, the church and the magistracy came in for the largest share of his invective. We played him off, however, in such a manner as to make him, in spite of himself, contribute to our entertainment, and fetched as much music out of him as it is possible to draw from a fiddle out of tune. Yet, with all this man's acrimony, I am certain there is blended no small share of benevolence, and his tongue, I doubt not, belies his heart. Such was our stage coach party.

It is now time to enquire after your health, as I left you on the list of invalids. I hope you are now amongst the convalescents, and feel the beneficial influence of returning spring. If I may be allowed to step out of my profession and venture a prescription, I order you to Broad Green immediately; to take large draughts of country air, and frequent potions of your own cow's milk. I also require you to get a spade for yourself, to turn up the soil of your garden with your own hands; to feed upon the vegetables of your own raising, and feast upon your own fattened calf. Let air, exercise, and the simple produce of the earth be your physic, and a horse and a cow your *physicians in ordinary*. By this regimen you will inhale a pure atmosphere, derive from the ground the salubrious effluvia which yield health to the farmer, give moderate exercise to the whole system, and particularly give enlargement to the chest and free play to the lungs. This is my prescription, and you have it without a fee, and with the strongest assurance of its success.

man of great scientific attainments. Mr. Cross was in the Commission of the Peace (although he never qualified), also a Deputy Lieutenant for the county, and succeeded his father as Deputy Prothonotary. Of his six children, three sons survive—1. William Assheton Cross Esq. his successor, now of Redscar, who married Katharine Matilda, daughter of Charles Winn of Nostell Priory co. York Esq.; 2. John Edward, Vicar of Appleby co. Lincoln, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Phipps Hornby C.B.; 3. Richard Assheton Cross, Barrister-at-Law, M.P. for Preston, who married Georgiana, daughter of Thomas Lyon of Appleton Hall co. Chester Esq. There is a beautiful view of Red-Scar, a large Elizabethan house, built by him, in Baines's *Hist. of Lane.* vol. iv. p. 372.

But if you could venture upon an excursion to Clitheroe, and spend a few weeks with your new doctor, I do believe you would find this air restorative; and be assured I should feel the highest satisfaction from the experiment.

I have written to *you* particularly as to one who ought for awhile to be an idle man, that I may not give a moment's interruption to business; yet I should be sorry to impose upon you the task of answering. Your brother Sam, however, will oblige me much if he will inform me how you all are; let him be for the present your amanuensis. My orders to *you* are peremptory, that you hang up your pens in the garden to frighten sparrows, convert your pen-knife into a pruning hook, oil all your paper to make covers for cucumber frames, change your writing box into drawers for garden seeds, and make your rulers into sticks to tie up your carnations.

Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join me in every good wish to you all. Please to present my respectful compliments to Miss Greaves, if she is still a part of your live stock. And let Mrs. Staniforth know that I think of her a hundred times a day, for every pinch of snuff I take, the idea flows along with the effluvia, through the nose, passes the *os cribriforme*, and thus enters the brain, which is the seat of memory. I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

THOMAS WILSON.

Mr. C. Staniforth,
Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to John Blackburne Esq. M.P.

Clitheroe, April, 1792.

Sir: Being fully convinced that you will consider no address as obtrusive which has for its object either the advantage of individuals or the public good, I shall therefore have no need to apologise for soliciting your attention to Charitable Clubs or Benefit Societies.

The utility of such institutions is obvious, as they gather up the fragments even of scanty earnings and render them a competent supply in the season of sickness, casual confinement and the in-

firmities of old age. The relief, too, which is derived from hence has an additional relish, as it depends not on the caprice of precarious charity, nor on the churlish dole of an unfeeling overseer, but as each member only calls for his own, which he had prudently deposited out of the reach of his own occ[asional] extravagance. Thus charity, in such cases, begins at home, but extends through a numerous circle of individuals. Such societies tend also to render men more frugal, more sober, more attentive to character and more benevolent; for they are called upon to provide for themselves, and at the same time to contribute to the relief of each other; and what is a consideration of great importance, such societies, should they generally prevail, would greatly alleviate the burthens of the public in supporting the poor. Yet, beneficial as such institutions are, it unfortunately happens that their funds cannot be secured from embezzlement, nor, should the money of such societies be purloined, can a criminal prosecution be supported; and even when the money is lent with or without bond or other security, many difficulties, inconveniences and disabilities occur in maintaining actions, for want of incorporation and common seals. From these considerations, the united Benefit Societies of London and many other parts of the kingdom have determined to apply to Parliament during the present session for an Act to secure more effectually their stocks or funds, but to the exclusion of such societies from all benefits of the intended Act as have not subscribed to the proposed application. Now, I humbly conceive that the matter is of so important and public a nature, and promises such beneficial consequences to this county in particular, that an Act should not be suffered to pass in such a partial form as to relieve any particular societies, but to give protection to every society of a similar description, and be introduced as a public, rather than as a private, bill.

If I have made myself sufficiently understood, I doubt not but your sentiments upon the subject will concur with mine, and I assure myself of your endeavours to obtain a measure of general relief. It may not be improper, perhaps, to hint that a strong line

of demarcation should be drawn to separate these societies, which are instituted for the purposes of seasonable relief in the hour of need, from those clubs of confederacy which are sometimes formed by manufacturers to support their conspiracies against their masters for the raising of their wages.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble servant,

John Blackburne Esq. M.P.

THOS. WILSON.

J. Blackburne Esq. to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

London, April 25th, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letter with which you favoured me some days since is on a subject which requires the maturest consideration, and I have spoken with several well informed gentlemen upon it. Some years since Mr. Rolle brought in a bill for the regulation and incorporation of these societies, which passed the Commons, but was thrown out in the Lords on the ground that it was an encroachment on the royal prerogative, with which the power of granting incorporation is vested by the constitution. At present that same gentleman is paying every attention to the business, and some plan will be matured against another session as the groundwork of a bill. I shall give him every assistance in my power, and shall be glad of any information that can be conveyed to us.

The two objects of this bill seem to be *security to the funds* and *permanency to the Society*. The former it is proposed to effect by making either the members for the county or the treasurer a trustee and giving him the powers of a common trust; and the latter by preventing any of the clubs from changing the funds to different purposes from which they were first subscribed.

This is a most difficult matter, and nothing as yet can I say upon the mode of effecting it; but all must agree it will be a good thing to effect.

No bill of the purport you mention as yet appears, but I have heard the same rumour yours stated, that there would. I think the

session is now too far advanced to permit such a one to pass, and I certainly agree with you, that whatever is done in this business ought to be of a general, and not partial extent.¹

I am, Sir,
Your very faithful, humble servant,
J. BLACKBURNE.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, December 21st, 1793.

Dear Sir : I cannot with propriety let slip the opportunity which is afforded me by Mr. Weekes, of signifying to you my intention of tasting your goose-pie this Christmas. When I shall have it in my power to reach Liverpool I cannot precisely inform you, as my determination depends upon such circumstances as cannot be immediately reduced to absolute certainty. But it is sufficient thus to announce my purpose in general, that, when I arrive, you may be prepared to receive me in due form and with such ceremony as a personage so distinguished must ever require.

Liverpool I see stands nobly forth in contributing liberally towards furnishing winter clothing for our gallant seamen and soldiers; and let me not forget to tell you that the ancient and respectable borough of which I have the honour of being a member, will yield to no corporation in the kingdom in loyalty to the king and in liberality towards those brave fellows who are gathering laurels on the tented field, and cropping the pale lilies of France. We shall send up as our contribution about twenty guineas!

¹ Mr. Wilson also endeavoured to enlist the parliamentary services of at least one of the Clitheroe borough members in the same important cause, and received a somewhat laconic reply from Mr. Assheton Curzon, informing him that a petition had just been presented to the House of Commons from Bradford respecting the incorporation of benefit societies, but that nothing had been, or was likely to be, done. The case was subsequently met by the establishment of savings' banks. John Blackburne of Orford and Hale Esq. F.R.S., &c., Sheriff of Lancashire in 1781, which county he represented in Parliament with singular attention to its local interests for forty-six years, died 11th April, 1833, æt. 79; and was succeeded by his son, Colonel Ireland Blackburne, M.P.

Please to present my best compliments and wishes, with those of Mrs. W. and Miss Nowell, to all around your fire.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Per favour of Mr. Weekes.

Lord Southwell¹ to the Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Standen, June 28th, 1795.

Dear Sir: I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in pleading the cause of a poor young man, who, I freely confess, has too glaringly and presumptuously violated the laws of this kingdom, and abused the toleration and indulgence granted by the Government to his Majesty's Catholic subjects. I heard of it with sorrow, and, knowing your goodness of heart, I dared not to mention it to you the day I was at your house, because I was sure it would distress you to be obliged to give pain to any man.

I received this day a letter from Mr. Stone, the head master of the academy at Stonyhurst, which tells me that you have wrote to Mr. Rault to complain of his conduct at the funeral of James Place. I can assure you that we were concerned at it here when we knew it. Mr. Stone adds, that he and the gentlemen of Stonyhurst were as ignorant of it as we were, and would, I am sure, have prevented it if they had known anything of it. Poor Mr. Rault is a foreigner, and entirely ignorant that what he was doing was totally contrary to the ecclesiastical and civil laws of this kingdom, and I am sure never intended to give any offence, and if he had apprehended any I am sure would not have done it, and is ready and willing to make you every apology and excuse that you shall desire.

¹ Thomas Arthur, second Viscount Southwell, born 1742, married in 1774 Sophia Maria Josepha, third daughter of Francis Joseph Walsh, Count de Serrant in France (she ob. January 6th 1796); and his Lordship dying 15th February, 1796, having never recovered his deep sorrow for the loss of his wife, was buried in Clitheroe Church, where a monument was placed to his memory, the elegant Latin inscription on which is said to have been written by the Rev. Thomas Wilson. Dr. Whitaker observes, that "these amiable persons lived for some time, and died, at Standen."

I hope, dear Sir, that you will excuse the trouble I have given you and my bad writing, for I write in a hurry in order to catch you at Blackburn. Lady Southwell, Mr. Simpson, and my son unite with me in respects and best wishes for your good journey and safe return. And

I remain, dear Sir,
Your obliged and obedient humble Servant,

Rev. Mr. Wilson,
Blackburn.

SOUTHWELL.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to the Rev. — Rault.

Clitheroe, June 27th, 1795.

Rev. Sir: The liberty you took in Clitheroe Church-yard on Tuesday evening, of performing the funeral ceremony over the corpse of a Roman Catholic, has given very great and just offence, and exposes you to a heavy penalty, of which I have reason to believe you will hear more from higher authority. The Act of the 31 Geo. III. c. 32, which grants relief to Roman Catholics, does not extend to Roman Catholic ecclesiastics officiating at any funeral. And by the 3rd J. c. 5. s. 15: "The executors or administrators of every such person so buried, knowing the same, or the party that causeth him or her to be so buried, shall forfeit £20; one-third to the King, one-third to him that shall sue in any of the King's Courts of Record, and one-third to the Poor of the Parish where such person died." I am far from disapproving the relief which the laws have lately given you; but I caution you not to abuse indulgence by unwarranted innovations or ministerial officiousness, and not to step beyond those enlarged limits which the wisdom of our Legislature has thought proper to prescribe.

I am, Sir,

Yours,

THOS. WILSON.

Lord Southwell to the Rev. Thomas Wilson.

July 23rd, 1795.

Dear Sir: As I know I can speak with confidence to you, I beg leave to ask your advice on the following head.

Mr. Rault's business has been printed in the Blackburn paper, and in such a manner as to call upon some magistrate to punish him. The poor young gentleman is sorely afraid that Mr. Whalley¹ may take it in hand, and wishes me to go to him to make his excuse for the past and to assure him that no such thing shall happen in future.

Now, as I know your good sense and good nature, I beg your advice — if you think I shall do better to go or to let the matter sleep. You may rely that no person shall know that you have advised me or what you shall advise me. I beg your answer as soon as convenient. I beg respects and best wishes to your amiable lady and to Miss Nowell.

I am, with great gratitude for all favours,

Dear Sir, your very obliged and obedient servant,

SOUTHWELL.

I beg you will name any day next week, except Friday or Saturday, to do me the honour to eat a bit of mutton with Mr. Rault, Mr. Stone, &c.

Rev. Mr. Wilson,

Clitheroe.

Rev. Dr. Francis Barnes² to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Pet. Coll., Cambridge, Dec. 20th, 1795.

My dear Sir: I have this morning received a letter from my friend Mr. Hutton, proposing to me as the three most eminent

¹ See p. 70, *Note 26*, ante.

² Francis Barnes D.D. the son of Mr. Joseph Barnes, a respectable yeoman, was born at Bolton le Sands near Lancaster, in 1743. He received his education at Eton, where he was placed in 1757; and in after life, when taking a retrospective glance at old times, he jocularly related his perilous adventures on horseback with his grandfather from Lancashire to that royal seat of learning, and admitted that he had no better equestrian success than attended Paley when on a similar journey to Cambridge.

schools in the county, St. Bees, Hawkshead, and Clitheroe. I cannot hesitate a moment in my choice — and I write now, not so much to recommend, as to desire the favour of you to take under your care, for a year or two, a scholar, a nephew of mine, who is now of age to be dismissed rather than admitted into school, but who has from difficulties of situation and circumstances been much neglected. He is twenty years of age, but yet I hope you will not make that an objection to him, as, if you do not find him as tractable and docile as a boy of ten, you will do right to turn him out. His master, Widditt of Lancaster, speaks well of him, and I hope, does not flatter him.

I write now to ask what are your terms, of a parlour boarder, as I have as much concern for the outward uncouth man, as the inward. I should wish to have all I can for my money, a little cultivation in the modern language as well as the ancient. You have corrected the barbarisms of the North, and was he but to hear you, he might in time learn to do the same.

His great wish is to enter into Orders, but without the least

From Eton Mr. Barnes removed to King's College, Cambridge, of which he was elected a Fellow, and graduated B.A. 1766, M.A. 1771, B.D. 1784, D.D. per Lit. Reg. 1789. He was appointed Proctor (1779) and Taxor (1780) and elected Vice-Chancellor (1788 and 1807) of the University. In 1788 he was also elected Master of Peter House, and appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1813. He was twice members' prizeman (1769 and 1770,) and a successful College Tutor, his earnest and long continued study having incited him "to scorn delights and live laborious days." His life indeed was spent within the walls of his College for the advancement of the interests of religion and learning, and men of every class and opinion respected him for his great simplicity, gentleness, and fairness of character. The Professor died at the Master's Lodge of St. Peter's College, 1st May 1838, aged 95 years. His younger brother, the Rev. John Barnes, Vicar of Huyton, and Chaplain to the Earl of Derby, was educated by him; and it appears that his nephew James (son of Mr. William Barnes of Bolton le Sands, farmer) was educated at his expense by Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe. This worthy man died in 1828, Incumbent of Samlesbury near Blackburn, where he had been 24 years, and his son the Rev. W. L. Barnes M.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, Curate of Bingley, was appointed to the Incumbency of Smallbridge in Rochdale in 1836, which he resigned in September 1837 for the Rectory of Knapton in Norfolk, to which he was presented by his great uncle the Rev. Dr. Barnes.

prospect of preferment: I am willing to do what I can for him, as his father is unable. One thing I must mention, that if my nephew should come to you (for it will depend upon the expense) I shall not be able to remit money to you, except half-yearly, at Lady Day and Michaelmas.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, with the greatest esteem,

The Rev. Mr. Wilson,

FRAS. BARNES.

Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Rev. Francis Barnes, D.D.

Dear Sir: Your letter was duly received, with the draft for £30 for the discharge of the bills of your nephew from June the 24th 1796 to March the 26th 1797, which will be immediately paid. My acknowledgments are at the same time due to you for that part of the above sum which, by the custom of the school, I took the liberty of stating as a perquisite to myself.

Your nephew deserves whatever I can say on his behalf for regularity and propriety of conduct to the full extent of these terms; and though he does not possess much vigour of mind or sprightliness of imagination, yet I entertain no doubt of his becoming competent to pass a respectable examination for Holy Orders in the course of two years. I must also observe that the decency of his deportment and the steadiness of his temper are particularly suited to the clerical character; and though he may not shine as a critical theologian, I am convinced he will not be deficient in the qualifications of a worthy man and a good Christian.

I had the honour of dining last week with the Bishop of Llandaff on his return from town, and was much pleased with his affability and communicativeness. I felt myself quite at my ease in his company, and was politely asked to visit him at Calgarth. He is full of politics, and I dare say expects a change of Ministry, and of course a translation from the Welsh into English with some improvements.

A very handsome offer of a Living in the neighbourhood of

Liverpool was made to me the other day by the Bishop of Chester¹ on condition of residence, but for certain reasons I thought proper to decline it.

Nothing I think has taken place in the neighbourhood of Lancaster, which to one who has been so long out of the county can be very interesting.

I am, dear Sir,

Rev. Dr. Barnes,
Cambridge.

Yours truly,
THOS. WILSON.

Thomas Lister Parker Esq.² to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Christ College, Cambridge, November 28th, 1797.

My dear Sir: I hope you will excuse my not answering your last kind and interesting letter until now, although well meriting an immediate reply; but the continued bustle I have been in since my arrival here has left me little time for writing.

To make up for my past negligence I will endeavour to give you a short journal of a fresh academic's life, which hitherto to me has proved very agreeable. The first thing necessary is good rooms, which, being the only home and resort, ought at least to be comfortable. Here I am particularly fortunate. The next necessary to make college-life agreeable is society. Here, too, I flatter myself I am fortunate, as there are so many North countrymen here, with many of whose connexions I am acquainted, and with some of whom in all probability I may hereafter live. Buck³ of Mag-

¹ William Cleaver D.D. Bishop of Chester 1788–1800, ob. Bishop of St. Asaph in 1815, and was buried in Brasenose College, Oxford, of which he had been the President.

² For some account of Mr. Parker, see p. 20, Note 1 ante.

³ The Rev. Richard Buck, Fellow of Magdalene College, B.A. 1783, M.A. 1786. He was the descendant, and ultimately the representative, of the Langleys and Dauntseys of Agecroft Hall, near Manchester. He was a man of refined tastes, and his small collection of paintings by the old masters was considered by a select few to be unrivalled. His son, Robert Buck Esq., is the present possessor and occupier of Agecroft. See Gastrell's *Not. Cestr.* vol. ii. p. 52; Booker's *Memorials of Prestwich*, p. 227.

dalene, Clowes¹ of Trinity, the Master² of Kinnaird, Lord Henry Petty,³ and Lord Grantham⁴ will make college-life very agreeable.

I must, however, refer to the most necessary part of an academical life, although I am sorry to add I cannot say much either *pro* or *con* from experience; but I still hope to pursue those wise plans which your mature experience and superior abilities have already recommended. I feel that method and systematic reading can alone fix the attention and impress facts upon the mind, and yet here I find nothing more difficult than system, and scarcely a possibility of studying closely, so many things occur daily to engross the attention and to drive away learning.

At present I attend my private tutor in Mathematics, which to me, as you know, are not so agreeable as Classics, although, doubtless, almost as useful in their end. The public tutors I do not attend, as Fellow Commoners are not obliged to do so unless they please, and, at present, my pleasure is not to attend any Public Lectures, although I have some intention of attending Christian's⁵ Lectures, which are solid and useful, as I find even at my time of life that some knowledge of the intricacies of the Law is necessary.

I shall always feel myself deeply indebted to you for your good advice upon this important subject, as well as for your Lectures on Natural Philosophy, the little which I know respecting Law and Philosophy having been derived from one who thoroughly understands both. I am equally obliged to you for your friendly offer, and shall ever be thankful for your past attentions, but I

¹ The Rev. John Clowes of Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1799, M.A. 1805, elected Fellow of the Collegiate Church of Manchester in 1809, which dignity he resigned in 1832, having previously succeeded to the large estates of his family on the death of his eldest brother, Samuel Clowes of Broughton Hall Esq. He died unmarried 28th September 1846 in his 70th year.

² Charles, afterwards eighth Lord Kinnaird, ob. 1826, æt. 46, leaving by his wife, a daughter of the second Duke of Leinster, the present peer.

³ Henry Petty Fitzmaurice, now Marquess of Lansdowne K.G.

⁴ Thomas Philip, now Earl de Grey K.G.

⁵ Edward Christian Esq. Fellow of St. John's, B.A. 1779, M.A. 1782, first Downing Professor (1800–1823) and Chief Justice of the Isle of Ely. He married at Rochdale, 11th October 1809, Mary daughter of John Walmsley of Castlemere Esq. but ob. s.p.

fear that many things will engross my time to the exclusion of Natural Philosophy.

Of the many Northern men I have met here, known to you, a pupil of yours is one of the pleasantest and best informed — I mean Mr. Jackson.¹ He is tutor to my friend Yorke of Beverley, and the pupil cannot fail to profit by such a tutor. He dined with me the other day, and of course we talked of past scenes and old friends with no small degree of pleasure, often recalling the halcyon days we both had spent under the towering cliff, although both at different times. We are going soon to call upon your friend Buck, and Kerrieh² the antiquary, both of whom have so many fine paintings. I cannot conclude without admiring your smart pun³ upon the *ships* of his lord-*ship*, and agree with you that the last mentioned is the *worst-ship* in the *sea*, and I hope he has a long voyage to make before he arrives at the wished-for *luwn*

¹ Rev. Thomas Jackson (afterwards Calvert), born in 1775, educated at Clitheroe School, Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1797, M.A. 1800, B.D. 1807, D.D. 1823. In 1815 he was appointed Norrisian Professor of Divinity, which office he resigned in 1824, and in 1819 succeeded Dr. Fawcett as the Lady Margaret's Preacher. He was appointed one of his Majesty's Preachers at Whitehall about 1819, and was presented by the Crown in 1820 to the Rectory of Wilmslow in Cheshire, which he resigned on being installed Warden of Manchester College in 1823. He held the Vicarage of Holme on Spalding Moor, a College living (to which he was instituted in 1822), at the time of his death, which occurred in Manchester in 1840 in his 65th year. He married in 1824 Juliana, daughter of Sir Charles Watson of Wratting Park co. Cambridge Bart., by whom he had surviving issue. Dr. Calvert's tastes were scholastic and academical, and he possessed little of the pastoral character. He was just the man for a Deanery or for the Headship of a College, his grace of manner adding much to his authority, and his conciliatory deportment rendering him highly popular with the Clergy. His published sermons are distinguished by simplicity of diction and soundness of principle, and never failed to impress and delight his hearers. — *Fasti Mancun.* a MS.

² Thomas Kerrieh, Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, B.A. 1771, M.A. 1775, and the University Librarian in 1797.

³ The pun referred to the writer's uncle, Lord Ribblesdale, and to his Lordship's worshipful clerical friend, the Rev. Dr. Collins, Incumbent of Burnley, whose onerous magisterial duties were *not* rewarded with a mitre by the Duke of Portland.

I am, dear Sir,

Your much obliged and sincere

The Rev. Thomas Wilson,

THOS. LISTER PARKER.

Clitheroe, near Blackburn,

Lancashire.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Lister Parker Esq.

Clitheroe, January 31st, 1798.

Dear Sir: Accept my thanks for the very nice brawn which I have *now* received. You announced to me its departure from Cambridge on the 11th of January, but it did not arrive till the 29th. I began to suppose that I should be in the predicament of the Irishman who *found* a present of game in his friend's letter, but saw no more of it. In *this* case undoubtedly it would have called for acknowledgment, as being *literally received*, though it had not *come to hand*; but I should have looked upon it not as *brawn*, but a confounded *bore*. I had begun to account for the delay in a variety of ways. I conceived, in the first place, that it might quit the vicinity of *St. John's* with some kind of reluctance, arising from a fellow-feeling and kindred sensibility. I next supposed that the Devil, who looks so sternly over Lincoln, might have possessed him, and that he, like his brethren of old, might have run down some steep place into the fresh-water seas of that county; or that, from instinct, he had chosen to dwell and wallow in the mud of those dirty fens. I likewise thought it possible that he might have fallen into the hands of the *swinish multitude*, somewhere upon the road, who might choose to detain him, on the principle of *fraternity*. It then occurred that he had perhaps eluded his guards; for though he was *collared* and firmly *bound* to his good behaviour, yet his craft might after all elude his keepers, for the *cunning of a dead pig* is become proverbial. I likewise remembered that hogs in their motions are the most obstinate, capricious and perverse of all animals, and from this consideration endeavoured to account for his delay; but the true reason of his tardy movement may probably be better deduced from his pre-

sentiment of the furious attack he would meet with whenever he might come within my reach. At last, however, he made his appearance, and I cannot but admire your practical pun in the vehicle in which he was confined. He came in a *cask*, which bears an affinity to a *hogs-head*; and as the cask was of *oak*, it was the more ingeniously chosen, as savouring of the *acorn*, his favourite fruit. I turned the *boar* immediately out of the *wood*, and was highly gratified by the beauty of his mottled, marble body. I have encountered him *fulmineo ictu*, and find my *tusks* a match for him. The attack was furious, and fell chiefly on the *horn-work*. He is already reduced to a *miserable pickle*, and, if it *please the pigs*, I will not desist till I have conquered this *boar*; the conflict may be obstinate, but the parties have met before, *sus atque sacerdos*. I shall call in Mr. Smith, as an auxiliary; he owes the family a spite, for a *sow*, about fourteen years ago, eat up his *surplice* — this is a fact — he will therefore labour for revenge *dentibus et unguibus*. Whatever may be our success in the engagement we shall not fail to remember you at every onset.

We have no news in this part of the country worth telling. Please to present my best respects to Mr. Jackson; you will find him a well-informed, worthy man. Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell present their best wishes.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours, most sincerely,

T. WILSON.

P.S. You have seen or heard of the Bishop of Llandaff's Address to his Fellow Countrymen on the present alarming crisis; the work does him great credit as a man of public spirit and a politician; but the sacrifice which he calls upon individuals to make, in order to extricate their country from its present pecuniary embarrassments, is such as will not easily be complied with in these degenerate days. The plan which he has now publicly proposed I had the honour of hearing stated by him in person at your house. The Staniforths are all well and full of engagements and company during this season of the mayoralty. Their public

days are Wednesdays throughout the year, on which days they fill their dining room; £700 per annum is the allowance which the corporation make to their chief magistrate for keeping hospitality, &c., but it will fall miserably short of the expenses. I hope you have met, in all your excursions during the recess, all the gratification you expected. You would see by the papers the promotion of Major Wright¹ to the rank of L. Colonel.

Thos. Lister Parker, Esq.,

Christ's College, Cambridge.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mr. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, May 21st, 1798.

Dear Sir: That I arrived safe from Liverpool after my very agreeable Christmas visit, it is needless to inform you, though my journey was not without its difficulties and delays, for we halted more than two hours upon the passage. The driver of the coach, after he had got under weigh and proceeded about two miles, finding the road very slippery in consequence of the frost, and not having taken the precaution of getting his horses sharpened, thought it necessary to slip them out of their harness and return with them to Liverpool to a blacksmith. We imagined that he had stopped only to take in part of his lading, and remained for some time without murmuring; but finding the delay continued beyond the usual length of ordinary patience, we thought proper

¹ Henry Adderley Wright Esq., fourth son of the Rev. Henry Offley Wright M.A. of Mottram St. Andrew, co. Chester, was Lieutenant Colonel of the 25th regiment, and married Alice, daughter and coheirress of Robert Selater of Roefield, near Clitheroe, Esq., and widow of Major General Rigby. Mr. Selater, in Mr. Wilson's early days, (he ob. 1778,) was a magistrate, bailiff, an attorney, and, according to Wilson's sarcastic statement,

"——— King of the little borough —

At once poor Clitheroe's grandeur and disgrace."

He seems, in the poet's opinion, to have suffered alike from the influence of gout and gold, whilst his daughters —

"——— girls of every grace,
Enjoy'd the gifts of fortune and of face."

to look out, to make an observation, and to remonstrate. But how great was our surprise when neither horses nor driver were visible; we began to think that we'd either found a coach or lost our cattle. Thus we continued stationary till the Liverpool Vulcan had kindled his fire and made the necessary alteration in sixteen horseshoes. However, we filled up our time pretty well with conversation, and did not much regret the adventure. A majority of my fellow travellers were North Britons, and consequently very intelligent and communicative people.

Since my return home, my time has been entirely engrossed, as usual, by the drudgery of my situation and the cares of my government. I feel in epitome what it is to be a king, and have made up my mind upon the subject, that I will never be prevailed upon to make an exchange with George the Third.

I put a hare in commission some time ago for your worship's table; I hope she was received, and was in a fit state to contribute to the entertainment of her kindred of the *Fur*.

I hope to be with you at midsummer; in spite of assessed taxes I can extend my tether so far.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Staniforth Esq.,
Liverpool.

THOS. WILSON.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

Clitheroe, February 3rd, 1800.

Dear Sir: Upon my arrival at proud Preston I had the satisfaction of seeing our friend Cross. He was in good health and excellent spirits, and said he was engaged to meet me at Mr. Assheton's, of Cuerdale.¹ He came; it was the first time of his dining in public since the event took place, which we all deplore,

¹ William Assheton of Downham Hall and Cuerdale Esq. the head of one of the oldest and best descended families in the county, was born in 1758, High Sheriff in 1792, married in 1786 Letitia, daughter of Sir Richard Brooke of Norton Priory in the county of Chester Bart. and was father of the present William Assheton Esq.

and he was the same Will Cross in company that we have found him on all other occasions. I said to him what you requested me to say, and assured him that your silence proceeded from a delicate embarrassment which he would easily account for, from a knowledge of *your* sensibility, and easily excuse by an appeal to his *own*. Mr. Assheton had sent to Whalley Master¹ to meet me, saying that he hoped he would have no objection to showing his face in the company of his old master. Whalley accepted the invitation by observing, that he could not be afraid of showing his face in the presence of one to whom he had so frequently What a piece of insolence! We had Harry Hulton² of the party, and spent a very convivial and a very rational afternoon. Whalley Master is not in the least disappointed by the appointment of Sir — Head to Mr. Bristow's living;³ this I inquired into for the satisfaction of Mrs. Staniforth. Mr. Assheton attended me on the

¹ See p. 65, *Note* 1, ante. He was afterwards of Brasenose College, Oxford, M.A. 1794, B.D. 1803, and died Rector of Chorley. Owing to his delicate health, he was removed for change of air from Clitheroe School about 1785, and placed with Mr. Lloyd of Warrington; a step which greatly mortified Mr. Wilson, who in a letter to Dr. Master observed, "I feel much reluctance and keen regret in parting with your son. He possesses so much docility, ingenuity, and goodness of disposition, that I always feel myself happy in my attentions to him, and the drudgery of my employment was much relieved by seeing that my labour was not in vain. I think it in some degree hard that the plant I had watered, pruned, diligently cultivated and loved, should be removed at the very season when it was beginning to blossom. I am forbidden to taste the fruit, and the bitters are not to be followed by the sweets. I cannot but adopt, with a trifling alteration, the complaint of Virgil — Ille ego qui primus puerum institui tulit, alter honores,

Sic vos non vobis fertis aratra boves."*

² Henry Hulton, second surviving son of William Hulton of Hulton Park Esq. born 1765, Captain 1st Royal Dragoons (1800), Major of the 8th West Indian Regiment (1807), Lieutenant Colonel of the Blackburn regiment of militia (1809), and Treasurer for the County of Lancaster. For a notice of his eldest brother, see p. 67, *Note* 12, ante. See pedigree in Baines's *Hist. Lanc.* vol. iii. p. 40.

³ The Rev. Sir John Head, the seventh baronet of that family, was presented to the valuable Rectory of Rayleigh in Essex by R. Bristow Esq. in 1800, and died in 1838. His grandfather, John Head, was a Liverpool merchant.

* Vide *P. Virgilii Maronis V'ta*, where the lines, "Ille ego, qui quondam," &c., occur; and afterwards the celebrated lines, "Sic vos non vobis," &c.

Thursday after I quitted Ranelagh-street to dine with the justices, and the next day we were engaged to T. Shuttleworth's.¹ On Saturday I set my face towards Clitheroe, and found all here pretty well, except Miss Nowell, who has been for some time, and continues to be, in a very indifferent state of health. We have had a little of the Christmas festivity here since my return, by way of letting me gently down; and I am now reinstated in my uneasy throne, promulgating laws which my subjects do not fully comprehend, and punishing them for offences of the head, in which the heart has no concern; but such is the misfortune of every government! the innocent are involved with the guilty, and to make proper discriminations is not possible. I hope Miss Martha Pickering will incur no forfeits to the library on account of Longinus; should this be the case I shall willingly repay her, though it will redound much to her credit as a literary lady, and give her a right to associate with the *Bas bleu* Society, the Montagues, the Carters, the Hannah Mores, &c. &c.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

THOMAS WILSON.

Ranelagh-street, Liverpool.

*Rev. T. D. Whitaker LL.B. to Rev. Thomas Wilson.*²

Holme, February 6th, 1800.

Dear Sir: Accept my sincere thanks for your two last favours, and my apologies for the delay which has taken place in answering the former; but the truth is that I have sat so close of late, and have received such a multitude of favours from different corres-

¹ See p. 41, *Note 1*, ante.

² Thomas Dunham Whitaker of St. John's College, Cambridge, LL.B. 1780, LL.D. 1801, Vicar of Whalley (1809) and of Blackburn (1818), died January 15th 1822, in his 63rd year. Of Dr. Whitaker I may truly say as his great kinsman Dean Nowell said of Bucer — "He was known to Britain by the sanctity of his life and eloquence of his tongue, and known to the world by his learned writings. He is not extinct, since his fame lives, and his writings live, and he himself lives to the world and to God." Churton's *Life of Nowell*, p. 14.

pondents, that I have incurred a frightful literary debt, which I am paying off by instalments.

Having taken a survey of your Church in the dark, it will be no great matter of wonder if I did not take an accurate survey of the font, which, as I remember, stands in the darkest corner of it; will you therefore allow me to request an answer to the following queries:—Is it angular or cylindrical? If the former, has it any arms, cyphers, instruments of the passion, &c.? If the latter, is it charged with any rude sculptures in bas-relievo?

May I also request *your* etymology of Clitheroe, and your grounds for supposing the word *Blake* to signify yellow?

Mr. Basire is now at work on the plate of Clitheroe, which he says will deserve twenty-five guineas. I shall by this post write to Mr. Parker, requesting some information from Mr. Oddy on the descents and passages of the honor of Clitheroe since the grant to General Monk. For from that time to the memory of persons now alive there is an interval, to use the beautiful words of Grotius, “*Quale est quod ex obscuro specu enitentibus paulatim se ostendit inter lucem tenebrosque medium*,” and this period has embarrassed me throughout the work.

Yesterday I sent to Hemingway a MS. of the first book,¹ some parts of which will exercise both his optics and his sagacity.

I have just now a ludicrous dispute to settle between Mr. Townley, myself, and Turner the draftsman. Mr. T[owneley] it seems, has found out an old and very bad painting of Gawthrop at Mr. Shuttleworth's house in London, as it stood in the last century, with all its contemporary accompaniments of clipped yews, parterres, &c.; this he insisted would be more characteristic than Turner's own sketch, which he desired him to lay aside, and copy the other.

¹ The “History of the Original Parish of Whalley and Honor of Clitheroe,” with plates and maps, was published by subscription in 4to in 1801, 63s. J. Hemingway of Blackburn was the printer, and Hatchard of Piccadilly the publisher. Hemingway afterwards removed to Liverpool, and with his partner, Nuttall, joined their former apprentice, Henry Fisher, afterwards of the Caxton printing office, Newgate Street, London. Nichols, the learned topographer, was afterwards Whitaker's publisher.

Turner abhorring the landscape, and contemning the execution of it, refused to comply, and wrote to me very tragically upon the subject. Next arrived a letter from Mr. Townley, recommending it to me to allow Turner to take his own way, but while he wrote his mind (which is not unfrequent) veered about, and he concluded with desiring me to urge Turner to the performance of *his* requisition, as from myself. I have, however, attempted something like a compromise, which I fear will not succeed, as Turner has all the irritability of youthful genius.¹

Mrs. Whitaker begs her respects, and desires me to say how much she thinks herself indebted to you for the precious relic of Burke. I beg my respects to Mrs. Wilson, and remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

T. D. WHITAKER.

If Mr. T.'s delicacy will allow, I propose the following inscription for one of the plates of Roman antiquities which he gives me:—²

“Carolo Townley Arm. S.S.A. artium et elegantiarum arbitro eximio hanc tabulam sumptibus ejus ære incisam in animi gratiæ testimonium, D.D.D. — T. D. W.”

I was happy to hear that you had met with Mr. Carr at Liverpool; he is a lively, pleasing man, with a great deal of taste in landscapes.

Rev. Thomas Wilson,

Clitheroe, Blackburn.

¹ After all, the old house, with its quaint Dutch landscape gardening, appeared in the History of Whalley, proving Mr. Towneley to be, in this instance at least, an antiquary rather than a man of refined taste, and “Turner’s own sketch” has never seen the light! A view of Gawthorpe Hall as it now appears has just been engraved in the *Shuttleworth Account Books*, ably edited by Mr. Harland for the Chetham Society, part i.

² The inscription does not appear on the plates of Roman antiquities in the third edition of Dr. Whitaker’s *History of Whalley*; but Mr. Towneley having died in 1805, in the following year a plate of Towneley, embracing the park and surrounding country, was engraved by James Basire, and thus inscribed—

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Lister Parker, Esq.

Clitheroe, February 28th, 1800.

Dear Sir: My thumb is greatly obliged by your kind inquiries after it, and feels no small degree of pleasure in assuring you that it is in a state of convalescence. The fingers are rejoiced at its recovery, especially its two next neighbours, as they were obliged to perform its work during its severe indisposition, though they were willing substitutes, and showed themselves to be *dexterous* and *handy* upon every occasion.

I found Liverpool gay, though grumbling at the times. The speculations of the merchants have occasioned great distress and inconvenience. They have their warehouses full, and their pockets empty, long faces and short purses; for they cannot convert their goods into money without considerable loss, as their vast importations have produced a glut and stagnation. Liverpool may cry out with Narcissus, *Inopem me copia fecit*, and this is actually the case, her disease is a *plethora*, and yet she cannot bleed.

I met with Mr. and Mrs. Hext¹ at Mr. Staniforth's. The lady looks *thin*, but perhaps she may assume her present appearance to show her *breeding*. We had a good deal of visiting, and I was

"Desideratissimo capiti, Carolo Townley nuper de Townley, artium et elegantiarum arbitro eximio hoc *μνημοσυρον* pio gratoque animo vovet

T. D. W."

Who that has once read, will ever forget Dr. Whitaker's vivid sketch of Mr. Towneley's character as a man of letters, refinement, and social worth (*Whalley*, p. 484 et seq.) and who does not regret the suppression of the exquisite Dedication to that gentleman of the *first* edition of the *History of Whalley*, glowing with taste and affection, in order to admit the cold and formal inscription which appears in the last edition?

¹ Captain John Hext of Trenarren in Cornwall, born 1766, married October 14th 1799, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Staniforth of Liverpool, and of Darnall in the county of York, Esq., by whom he had what Mr. Wilson called "many little *Cornish Cyons*." In alluding to her marriage, Wilson facetiously observed to her brother, "Miss Staniforth is *defunct*, having departed *this single life* on the 14th instant; so that in writing to her I shall have a *ghost* for my correspondent; but being a *spiritual person* myself, I may with some degree of propriety hold converse with her still." (Letter, October 19th 1799.) Mr. Hext died in 1838.

generally included in the matrimonial party. I inquired of Mrs. Hext if she had drank at the well of St. Keyne when she was in Cornwall; she said she had not, but intends to take a good swig when she returns. To explain what is meant, I shall transcribe the ballad; and here it is.¹ * * * * *

This well is in the parish of St. Neot, Cornwall. When I related to a company of young ladies at Mr. Staniforth's the virtues of the well of St. Keyne, each, for herself, desired Mrs. Hext to send a bottle of it, which they wished to keep corked up till the nuptial hour; and I conceive it will make a very material article of importation amongst the Lancashire witches. I foresee also a strange revolution, as the consequence of this trade, in *domestic* governments, and a vast advantage to the breeches-makers of the county. The gentlemen must pull in their *horns*, and the *horns* of the ladies will be exalted.

I dined with the Mayor of Liverpool, with a very pleasant and respectable party; the chief magistrate acquits himself with spirit, propriety, and elegance. The son of the *mayor*, the *colt*, is very well. I delivered your message, but he was disappointed in not hearing from you as soon as you had promised. I wrote to our friend Whitaker, as requested, and have had no answer, but suppose you have by this time heard from the antiquarian himself. Nothing can be learnt from the castle respecting the badge of the

¹ The ballad beginning,

"A well there is in the west country,"

has often been printed, and is therefore omitted here. The point is conveyed in the last stanzas, the water being supposed to impart supreme marital authority for life to the bride or bridegroom who might *first* drink of it on leaving the church:—

* * * * *

"You drank of the well, I warrant, betimes,"

To the countryman he said;

But the countryman smil'd, as the stranger spake,

And sheepishly shook his head:

"I hasten'd as soon as the wedding was o'er

And left my wife in the porch;

But, 'faith, I found she'd been wiser than me,

For she took a bottle to church!"

bow-bearers.¹ Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nowell join in their kindest wishes and respects with,

My dear Sir, yours sincerely,

Thomas Lister Parker, Esq.

THOMAS WILSON.

Christ College, Cambridge.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

March 19th, 1801.

Dear Sir: I was the other day informed of an accident you had met with in Cheshire, on winding up your business of hunting;—I call it business, because I am so stupid that the idea of hunting never occurs to me as a diversion. It is my sincere hope that the fall you have had only occasioned a temporary confusion or slight contusion, and [I] shall be extremely glad to hear that you are perfectly recovered from all its ill effects; and let me at the same time tell you, that your life is now become of too much consequence to be put in competition with that of the most sagacious foxes, or the most shifty hares that ever ran before their own brushes or scutts. Sport with the *lion* and encounter the *whale* as long as you please, but abandon the vermin and the fur trade.

When I quitted your house for the long coach,² I waited at

¹ Mr. Parker was the hereditary Bowbearer of the ancient forest of Bowland.

² This "long coach," or, as Mr. Wilson humorously called it, his "coach and four," by which he often travelled between Liverpool and Preston, was the precursor of the omnibus, and afforded him and his friends great amusement. The year before he had informed his pleasant Liverpool correspondent, that "after being closely jammed in the coach, and almost incorporated with eleven fellow travellers for near seven hours together, I arrived at Preston, *in part*, on the day I set out from Liverpool; I say in part, for being in a state of complete liquefaction all the way, a considerable portion of my person was left upon the road, the grosser part mingled with its kindred dust, while the more subtle particles mounted into the atmosphere to make the grand tour of the lungs of the several mortals who were happy enough to take in such precious exhalations. We had no fewer on the top than in the hold of our machine. The outside gentry were fried and roasted, and the inside passengers parboiled and stewed, so that the vehicle might be considered as a travelling kitchen, where different kinds of cookery were carrying on at once, and every thing was sufficiently done, I assure you. If we gasped for breath we were scalded with an influx of hot air; and when we shut our jaws we were sure to bite the dust."

the inn for about a quarter of an hour, and perused the faces of those who were to be my fellow-travellers to proud Preston, and just at the time of starting I was surprised to see a long, lank, languid figure enter the room where I was sitting. The phantom addressed me; I solemnly demanded its name; it replied, "Edward Master."¹ As I had seen him so very lately, I could not help inquiring into the cause of his journey. He told me he had been at our friend Cross's, at Preston fair; that he had stayed with him two days; that he meant to return on the third day to Tarleton Bridge; that he accordingly embarked in the long coach, and that in that happiest of all vehicles he had met with a couple of Caledonian nymphs, beautiful as angels, whose pretty mouths had pronounced the Scottish language with such fascinating accents, that when he arrived at Tarleton he found it impossible to tear himself away from such delightful company; his head was all turned to mercury, by a wonderful kind of alchemy, and he spoke of them in raptures. When I got to Preston I informed Cross of the strange metamorphosis of our friend Master; he wrote to him to be of our party during my stay, and this adventure, I assure you, afforded us a great fund of entertainment and elegant railery while Ned was with us. Cross was in charming spirits during my stay with him, and I just recovered voice enough to be heard in the company he introduced me to. Be so good as to inform your father that I put the bread-fruit upon its trial at Preston Sessions, and that it was every morsel of it condemned and executed: the justices would not give it a fair chance by putting it upon the country, for it never reached the jury, nor was I permitted to carry a single particle of crust or crumb to Clitheroe.

Let Mrs. Staniforth know that Master Oates is very well, and that I find him a very tractable, ingenious, and well-behaved boy. With compliments from *all here* to *all* with you,

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

THOMAS WILSON.

Samuel Staniforth, Esq. Liverpool.

¹ Edward Master M.A. afterwards Rector of Rufford in the county of Lancaster, fifth son of the Rev. Dr. Master, Rector of Croston. He died unmarried.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

Clitheroe, October 5th, 1801.

Dear Sir: Our school meeting on the 29th was very respectable, and we spent the day in great harmony and festivity. The Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy, who had been a pupil of mine at Sedbergh, gave us the honour of his attendance. We had the Rector of Slaidburn¹ also in good health and spirits, and I was glad to see Mr. James Wigglesworth in the number, who seemed to enjoy the gaiety of the day with sympathetic glee. Mr. Ridsdale acquitted himself in the chair with great decorum and propriety; Harry Aspinall was vociferously pleasant, as usual, and his cousin of Standen made one of the party. Jack Swale was voted into the chair as Mr. Parker's proxy. Mr. Cross brought his uncle Ralph Assheton in his hand, who, after a suitable examination, was admitted as a sufficient scholar;² though, I am

¹ The Rev. Henry Wigglesworth of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, B.A. 1781, M.A. 1784, commonly called "the bold Rector of Slaidburn," of which living he was the patron, and had also a large estate in the parish. He was, moreover, fortunately for the Church, the last of the few clerical Nimrods of the West Riding of Yorkshire, having kept a pack of harriers for his own diversion as well as for that of his friends. The daring exploits and redoubtable achievements, of himself, his horses, and dogs, are celebrated in several hunting songs still remembered, and some of which I have seen in print. One of these, lacking the classical taste and poetical fire of the hunting ballads of Mr. Warburton of Arley, but minutely describing a fox chase in Craven of thirty miles in three hours in the last century, thus concludes:—

"Old Reynard had oftentimes play'd us the cheat,
Till Mr. Wigglesworth's harriers found out his retreat,
Many sportsmen before having run him with care,
But losing him quickly they thought him a hare!
The day's sport being over let each jovial soul
Drink success to the chase in a full flowing bowl.
Long life, peace and plenty may heaven now dispense,
And may foxhunters flourish a thousand years hence!
And at Burnsall we'll call

And drink the fox down in a full flowing bowl!"

The "bold Rector" was twice married, but left no surviving issue. His father died in August 1807, and at Christmas in that year Wilson visited his "agreeable friend" at Townhead, "found him in excellent spirits, and doing much credit to the old family mansion."

² "Sir," said Mr. Wilson, with as much gravity as he could command, "there is

persuaded, he would have experienced a good deal of difficulty in going through one of our *quartos*, or perusing a *port-folio* from the title page to the *finis*. We had not the pleasure of a song from Mr. Cross, as he left us before the music began, and before the performers had found their proper pitch, or had sufficiently *rosin'd*. From Preston we had likewise Mr. Shuttleworth, Captain Watson, Mr. Pilkington, and Mr. Blanchard, and from Blackburn Mr. Carr. Mr. W. Feilden meant to have been with us, but was unfortunately called away to Manchester on business of importance; but by way of securing him for another year he was appointed steward, together with Blanchard, for the next meeting. Mr. Heaton gave us "God save the King" in his best manner; and Ridsdale, Swale, and Blanchard favoured us with a good many convivial songs. In short, we sat down twenty, and had much merriment and moderation. Your health was proposed by Mr. Shuttleworth, who prefaced his motion by an apposite speech; and it was drunk with peculiar marks of personal respect, at the time when we supposed you might be remembering *us* in the same manner. We had not a single soul from Liverpool! Mrs. W. joins me in compliments and every good wish to yourself, Mr. Staniforth, and the family in Ranelagh-street.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

T. WILSON.

Samuel Staniforth, Esq. Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, December 16, 1802.

Dear Sir: You may boast, and with justice, of the feat you have performed, in travelling from Liverpool to Cornwall, and from Cornwall to Liverpool on horseback; but what will you say when I tell you that *I* travelled every day on horseback, without boots

always a literary examination on these occasions, and when our candidates are not far advanced in the Classics, we begin low: let me ask, Sir, *can you decline* Hoc[к]?” In this instance the ready reply was — “*Not if it be good, Sir,*” and the candidate “was admitted as a sufficient scholar” by his lenient examiner.

or spurs, from my own house to school, and from school to my own house, twice a day for two months together, in grinning agony, and went through the duties of my profession with the firmness of a hero and the obstinacy of a stoic. It was this resolute perseverance which impeded my recovery and prolonged the *paroxysm* — what a fine word! Days of ease and heaps of flannel would have been much better for me; but the feelings of duty induced me to forego the usual indulgences which the gout requires, and to consult the good of the public rather than that of the individual; in doing which, I hope the unwelcome guest has met with such a cold and comfortless reception as to desist from any future visit.¹

Master Molyneux brings you this scrawl, so that you see I consult the pocket of my friend in saving postage. You may say perhaps that I am an economist in the article of pens, ink and paper, because I have not written to you before — but to this I plead not guilty. My greatest want is want of time, but my hurry is now over, and I mean to enjoy a little respite and indulge in that greatest of all comforts — ease of body and indolence of mind. You may think, perhaps, from my silence, that the gout prevented my writing to you, but that was not the case; my *toes* were all mementoes, but my *fingers* did not suffer,

Witness my *hand*,

Thomas Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

(By favour of Mr. Molyneux.)

¹ Such, unhappily, was not the case; Mr. Wilson afterwards writes to his friend, whose house he had just left (February 5th 1806): — “My gout still continues, my feet are in cloth shoes, and my legs stuffed into two pairs of woollen stockings; so that nobody will exclaim, “How *beautiful* are the feet of him that preaches the Gospel,” or assert that *my legs* are like the *Legs of Man*. I have been fagging at school near a fortnight; and stumping along the streets in spongy, thin soles, I believe has done me some harm, especially while the snow was melting on the ground; and this has led me to a discovery, viz. that *snow broth* is a very nourishing thing to gouty feet, for mine have increased considerably in bulk by the application and use of that article. But I am now obliged to give up walking, and *ride* to school. My general health, however, is good, and my spirits preserve their wonted tone.”

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, May the 9th 1803.

My dear Sir: It is a rule amongst the learned, if they have prudence equal to their learning, not to write upon any subject before they have *ruminated* upon it and thoroughly *digested* it; wishing, therefore, to preserve my station amongst the *literati*, I purposely deferred making my acknowledgments for your fine side of lamb till I was quite sure the digestion was complete. It arrived in this borough in charming order, and regaled both the senses of sight and taste on Easter Sunday in a high degree. It was held at *bay* by *sixteen* persons, all hungry as hunters; and in *sixteen* minutes not a remnant was left. They all seemed particularly affected on seeing the lifeless remains of a creature so *innocent*, and showed their compassion by removing from their view so mournful a spectacle: and, to prove their extreme sensibility, they treated it with the same marks of tender affection with which Artemisia honoured the remains of her husband Mausölus, by consigning it to their own bowels as its properest grave, that they might show how *dear* and *near* it was to their *hearts*. A dead silence prevailed during the solemn ceremony, though I cannot say their arms were reversed; yet the scene, I assure you, was truly *lamb-on-table*.¹

¹ The year following, the annual present, by some mischance, did not arrive in time for the Easter-day dinner, which led Mr. Wilson to write — “I concluded that the *Passover* had *passed over* from Preston to Lancaster, and assured myself that if my poor lamb should have happened to find its way to the high sheriff’s table, and be *presented* in the *bill* of fare before the grand jury, the *bill* would certainly have been found against it, notwithstanding its *innocence*. I was also convinced that should it have wandered to the lawyers, although there is one *Lamb* amongst them, it would find no advocate on its side, not even its *namesake*, but be hunted down by the whole pack, with *open mouth*, as if it had fallen amongst wolves, especially as it had no *wool* upon its *back*, nor could exhibit a *golden fleece*. Nay, should my poor lamb have been conveyed to the table of the *judge* himself, I conceive the chance would have been full as bad; for its cause would have been totally undefended, and judgment must have gone by *default*. Besides, the judge is in the habit of *sitting* upon a *woolsack*, and would have sat without compunction upon the *body* of the animal which produced the wool, and have had a fellow-feeling for the *carcase*, that *both ends* might fare alike. But after all these perils, I rejoice, and you will rejoice with

Having thus detailed, at full length, the fate of the poor lamb, it is high time to return you my thanks for your kind remembrance, and to enquire after the Liverpool *flock*.

On leaving Liverpool I had the good luck to embark in the long coach with Mr. Dixon, and our previous acquaintance, by meeting at Mr. Bolton's, rendered the passage very agreeable. I arrived in time enough at Preston to receive the two Miss Kings¹ and put them into the hands, and under the care, of our good friend Mr. Cross. Our friend's attention to them was civil, familiar, affectionate, friendly and *all that*, and continued so during their visit; his attention indeed was so marked and *remarked*, that the *cats* of Preston supposed he *must* marry one of the princesses, and one of them *must* of course have a *Will* of her *own*; but Will's secret was so well kept that it is a problem whether of the two was the object of his preference.

The day after my arrival in Preston I dined, as a matter of course, at the Bull, with the Bench and the Bar; where Mr. Raincock and your humble servant, sitting opposite to each other, got into long etymological discussions, to the great annoyance of the bench. Having spent our afternoon at the Bull, we then adjourned to Mr. Cross's, my head quarters, to spend the evening, and a very pleasant evening we had. Topping² was in very high glee, and, in spite of the Muses, gave us two or three songs; amongst the rest he favoured us with one which was composed at Lancaster

me, that it came safe to hand, and from hand to mouth, to as grateful hands and to as good mouths as any of the suspected persons can boast of, and to a court where it met with as much justice as it would have experienced from judge, jury, or counsel. We sat upon the body, and the verdict was unanimous."

¹ Edward King of Hungerhill in Craven Esq. fourth son of the Dean of Raphoe, was Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (see p. 41, *Note 6*, ante,) and had issue by his first wife three daughters, two of whom are probably the ladies here mentioned. It is, however, a little doubtful whether one of them was the subject of Wilson's happy pun at Mr. Staniforth's table; but Mr. Lister Parker remembers that the Rev. Mr. Parr, a short man, was engaged to be married to Miss Ann King, and when the cheese, in due course, came round, Mr. Wilson, addressing his fair neighbour and archly glancing at Mr. Parr, tenderly enquired — "*A little Parr-miss-Ann?*" (*parmesan*.)

² Mr. Serjeant Topping of Wateroft Hall in Cheshire.

when he was there last as Judge, to be sung by Counsellor *Wood*,¹ at one o'clock, *Sunday morning*.

Mr. [Lister] Parker is at present in London, but has been prevented from joining many pleasant parties by the influenza. On Saturday the 30th of April he was to dine with the Royal Academicians, which to him would be a very interesting visit.² He has also been at Court.

Poor Mr. Smith,³ since I had the pleasure of seeing you, has

¹ Sir George Wood of the Middle Temple, knighted in 1807, afterwards one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, died July 7th 1824, æt. 81.

² Mr. Parker had the honour of receiving an invitation from Mr. West, Sir Thomas Lawrence and Sir M. A. Shee, the Presidents, to dine with the Royal Academicians annually from this time, and rarely was absent from these delightful meetings.

³ The Rev. Robert Smith, born near Amesbury in Wiltshire, educated at Winchester College, afterwards of St. Alban's Hall, Oxon, M.A. 1752, was licensed to the Perpetual Curacy of Waddington on the presentation of Edward Parker of Browsholme Esq. 23rd March 1764, and subsequently instituted to the Vicarage of Almondbury in the West Riding of Yorkshire on the nomination of the trustees of Clitheroe School. He resided at Waddington, where he had a small thatched house and a large family. Several of his children died young; but he presented his son, the Rev. Robert Smith, in 1802, to the Incumbency of Honley in the parish of Almondbury. He continued throughout life to cultivate his early classical tastes, so that Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, when at Browsholme, called him "the living Juvenal." His dry and caustic wit was the amusement of the hour, and ought not to have past away with it, as his good sayings, which followed each other in rapid succession, were compared by Wilson, whom he loved as a brother, to "the cataracts of the Nile." Some of his Latin poems and translations, written at Winchester, were in Mr. Wilson's possession, and are above mediocrity, although he felt conscious that his "grating reed" would be deemed "harsh" by others, if not by his too kind friend; but I have not discovered that he published anything. His temper was cheerful (notwithstanding the gout), his disposition kind, his conversation playful, and the liveliest sallies of his wit, even when amongst those whom he termed the "commilitones Clitheronienses," with their *generalissimo* at their head, firing rounds of his *grape shot*, (Letter, October 5th 1796,) were always devoid of offence. When deprived, as he said, of the "juvenilis ardor," or rather being disabled by infirmities, he could no longer attend the literary gatherings at Clitheroe, he did not forget modestly to intimate to his friend Mr. Wilson the *pars magna fui*. In his day parochial work was little known, and less practised, so that nothing can be recorded of him as a parish priest. His *sobriquet* was "Gaffer Smith." He died in April 1809, aged 84, and was buried at Waddington on the 6th. His portrait, by Romney, one of the artist's best productions, is at Browsholme Hall.

had the misfortune of losing two of his daughters, who sickened about the same time, gradually declined in health and strength, and died within three days of each other. This, added to the loss of a son about nine months ago, is a severe visitation; but he bears it with the spirit of a Christian, and evaporates his sorrow by writing to all his friends a detail of *his* sufferings and an account of *their* last agonies. This, to men who have the fortitude to practise it, is certainly an excellent remedy. Silent grief becomes corrosive from its stagnation; but if moderately *ventilated*, it grows gradually more lenient; and poor Smith's sorrows and sufferings seem to be gently *racked* off from the *nib* of his pen.

Dr. Whitaker is coming to Liverpool at midsummer to inspect the Bolton Hall papers in the possession of Mr. Dawson.¹ His head quarters will be Mrs. Taylor's of Palace House.² We have some thoughts of travelling together, provided my visit will not incommode either family in Rodney or Ranelagh Street: I shall accordingly wait for an answer and a billet.

Of politics I say nothing: the ministry is a mystery too deep for me, and perhaps too shallow for Bonaparte.³ I shall therefore

¹ The result of this investigation may be seen in the *History of Craven*, p. 100 et seq., the materials for which Dr. Whitaker was now collecting, and which he published in 1805. Mr. Pudsey Dawson of Langcliff Hall near Settle, and of Bolton Hall, both in the county of York, whose very ancient archives the historian was about to examine, will always be remembered with gratitude as the noble founder of the School for the Indigent Blind in Liverpool. He was Mayor of that corporation in 1779 and 1780, and Colonel of the Royal Liverpool Volunteers. His paternal grandmother was the heiress of the great family of Pudsey, and his mother a sister of Sir Wilmoughby Aston, the fifth Baronet of Aston. He was born in 1752, and ob. 1817. His son Pudsey Dawson Esq. is now of Langcliff Hall and of Hornby Castle, and his daughter Mary is the relict of Anthony Littledale Esq. (brother of Mrs. Samuel Staniforth) and the owner of Bolton Hall.

² See pedigree of Holden of Holden in the *History of Whalley*, p. 419; and add, Frances, daughter of Ralph Holden Esq. and of his wife Mary, daughter of John Holden of Palace House, was baptized at Burnley May 1st 1746, and married there, May 1st 1784, Hugh Taylor of Liverpool Esq. She ob. 6th May 1817, s.p. Will dated 10th September 1816, proved at York 10th July 1817.

³ Writing on the 13th November 1803 to Mr. Staniforth, he observes: "Mr. Moss informed me that you are putting Liverpool in a state of defence, and I hope of secu-

leave the administration to our friend Patten; let him ascertain the true state of the nation, find out where the fault lies, and set the saddle upon the right horse.

Mrs. Wilson has for some time been indisposed; her complaint is a cold, and teasing cough, but she is getting better. My health has been but indifferent since I left you. The fact is, I am overworked, having the constant drudgery of a full school and the care of both my churches upon my hands, in consequence of the indisposition of my curate. I have likewise had a little attack of the influenza. My eyes and nose have been *running* as for a *prize*, and it would have required attentive *tellers* to determine whether the *eyes* or *nose* had it; but the *nose* at last was *blown*, it was then a *hollow thing*, and the *eyes* claimed the victory. You will suspect my *pen* has the *influenza* too. I shall, therefore, for want of room, conclude with compliments to all *yours* from all *mine*.

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Rodney Street, Liverpool.

rity, *should* our inveterate enemy pay you a visit; and the fame of your port, as the second in the kingdom, is likely enough to invite him to make an attempt upon it, and to hold out the plunder of it as a stimulus to his soldiers. But I hope the whole country is in such a state of preparation, and so far animated by a spirit of patriotism, that the threats of French vengeance will evaporate in air, or terminate in their own destruction. I deprecate, however, the event of their landing, as it must occasion great confusion throughout the kingdom, with much bloodshed, carnage, and conflagration; and view the situation of the country in the best light we can, *this* is certainly a season of peril and dismay. We have an enemy of a new character to conflict with, an enemy flushed with former successes, stimulated with envy, inured to cruelty, and prepared for every evil work. In *this* part of the country we expect the invasion with great indifference, and have softened the horrors of the event by long anticipation. Prince William [of Gloucester] I find is a very popular character amongst you, and not undeservedly so; his politeness and affability have won the hearts of the people wherever he has been. I dined with him several times at Trinity College in Cambridge, and his manners at *that age* were such as to endear him to the whole University."

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, April 19th, 1805.

Dear Sir: I spent a few days very pleasantly at Manchester after my departure from Liverpool. It was my good fortune to fall in with some very intelligent literary men, both of my own profession and in the medical department. Amongst the rest was Dr. *Toe*, whom you may remember by the epigram¹ to which Miss Hornsby's conduct gave occasion.

We have had a great treat at Browsholme, the company and conversation of the Bishop of Llandaff, for three successive days; Dr. Whitaker and Mr. Starkie were invited also, to partake of the literary feast. Mr. Parker has gone to town to attend the installation of the Knights of the Garter, and, I understand, has procured a ticket of admission from the Duke of Clarence.

I sent your own and Mrs. Staniforth's name to Dr. Whitaker as subscribers to his *Craven*; I also got the names of Mr. and Mrs. Bolton inserted in his list. I expect the book will make its appearance immediately.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours ever,

Samuel Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

¹ 'Twixt Footman John and Dr. Toe,
A rivalry befel,
Which should become the fav'rite beau,
And bear away the belle:
The Footman won the lady's heart;
And who can wonder? No man:
The whole prevail'd against the part—
'Twas *Foot*-man versus *Toe*-man.

Mr. Ormerod of Sedbury Park, and the late Dr. Holme (who was doubtless present at this meeting of Wilson and Dr. Toe) informed me that this clever epigram was, at the time, attributed to Reginald Heber, and also generally to Mr. Wilson of Clitheroe, whose fame as a wit was well known at Oxford; but enquiry has produced other candidates for the authorship. See *Notes and Queries*, vol. vii. Dr. Toe, who had a peculiarity in his walk, was the Rev. Henry Halliwell B.D. Fellow and Tutor of Brasenose, an alumnus of Manchester School, and a Lancastrian.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to the Rev. Dr. Whitaker.

Clitheroe, February 1806.

Dear Sir: I am sorry to find you have been so severely indisposed, and sincerely hope the genial gales of spring will remove and waft away your complaint entirely. I fear you have confined yourself too closely to your study, and sacrificed your health to your book — *num tanti est Cravena?* If you would divide your time betwixt your desk and your horse,¹ I am persuaded you would experience much benefit from such an arrangement. Our very good friend Dr. Barton recommends riding to me, and I mean to follow his prescription on a hard trot, with the fullest confidence of overtaking my appetite, and restoring the balance of my constitutional powers.

I feel for the situation of our brother Thacker, and contributed my mite, last year, towards his relief, on hearing his case stated by Mr. Giles Peel; and to assist in putting him into decent trim, I have enclosed two guinea notes, half a guinea of which is Miss Nowell's donation.

My Christmas visit to *Broughton* has brought on a still greater shyness than existed before betwixt Cardinal Collini² and your

¹ Dr. Whitaker was not fortunate with his horses. About 1798, Mr. Starkie the Vicar of Blackburn, writing to Mr. Wilson, observes: "Our worthy friend Mr. Whitaker, whose time is so much occupied between his engagements at Leeds and Holme, has been afflicted with the rheumatism, and the other day had the misfortune to have his nag stolen out of the pasture, and was obliged to walk from Halifax to Holme." And afterwards, when the magistrates met at Whalley to consider what steps should be taken to erect a bridge over the Ribble at Mitton, Dr. Whitaker did not, according to his habit, appear at the hour fixed. Without him nothing could be done. At length he arrived, but in sad plight, for in crossing the river his mare, refusing to sail in the boat, had been in the water along with the Dr. Wilson exclaimed, on seeing his friend's perturbation: "Ah! Dr., why did you not follow good advice and '*æquam memento rebus in arduis servare*'?" The Doctor merely smiled. "This," said Wilson, "is just what I expected from Heraclitus *ridens*."

² See p. 161, Note 3, ante. Dr. Whitaker acknowledges his obligations to the Rev. Dr. Collins for much assistance in searching for, arranging, and abstracting Lord Ribblesdale's evidences, and also for presenting a coloured engraving of the east window of Gisburn church as an embellishment to the *History of Craven*. *Preface*, p. vi. The Rev. Thomas Collins was born at Cannock near Rugeley, co. Stafford, and was

humble servant. For on passing through Gisburn, on my return from Broughton, I saw his Reverence standing in the street, dispensing justice to some country people, *sub Dio*; *more majorum*, nay, *sub Jove frigido*, for it was a bitter cold day. His worship *saw me*, moved out of the road, and turned his justice-side, I mean his *blind side*, to show, I suppose, that there was a *breech* between us, if not a *rumpus*. Perhaps he had the wit to find out that as I had been visiting a [Roman] Catholic,¹ it was proper to level the *Pope's eye* at me; or he might think himself in *this* attitude better prepared for a *counter-blast* against the *Tempests*, i.e. *Papisticis oppedere paratus*. In front the Dr. was laying down the law, according to Burn, and in rear was ready to explain the *fundamentals* of justice; he was arguing on the statutes *a priori*, and *a posteriori* was prepared, I dare say, to confirm a doubtful point from *Ventris' Reports*, which he could quote in a *crack*. I passed him in a *large taxed cart*, which perhaps he might hold in contempt, and turn his back upon it from a ludicrous recollection of the humour of *Oliver Cromwell*, who, on the mention of *Magna Charta*, said, with satirical emphasis, "*Magna Charta! Magna —!*" But whatever might be his meaning, or his wit, I moved on in my *magna carta* without receiving a *salute* either from his *upper* or his *nether* end. Perhaps he could not at that moment *raise the wind*, which doubtless has sometimes been the Doctor's case, and the case of greater conjurors and more learned clerks.

of Worcester College, Oxford, B.A. 1770, M.A. 1773, B.D. and D.D. 1792. He was Rector of Compton Valence, co. Dorset, and Incumbent of Burnley, co. Lancaster (1787). He was also Chaplain in Ordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and Domestic Chaplain to Thomas first Lord Ribblesdale. He published a sermon preached at Burnley, November 4th 1787, on the institution of Sunday schools there — Text, *Rom. x. 14* — 4to, 1708. He died in 1814, unmarried.

¹ Mr. Wilson's friend was Stephen Tempest of Broughton Hall in Craven Esq., the head of a respectable historical family. He was born in 1756, married in 1787 Elizabeth, second daughter and coheirress of Henry Blundell of Ince Blundell in the county of Lancaster Esq., and dying in 1824, was succeeded by his son, Charles Robert, created a Baronet in 1841. Mr. Wilson's intimacy with several distinguished Roman Catholic families, gave great offence, at the time, to various individuals, including "Dr. Podex," the only man living he appears really to have disliked.

I had, however, no great fear on the occasion, and should have entirely routed him if my horse had been a *dun*. Besides, my vehicle was strongly built, and perfectly *bum-proof*. I consider myself, however, as victorious in the rencounter, because I compelled the enemy *tergum dare*, and might, according to the usage of Greeks and Romans, erect a *trophy* on the spot where the enemy *vertit se*; but I shall waive such an insulting privilege, and content myself with considering the third of January, when this meeting took place, as an *ani-versary*. I shall also, hereafter, assert my title to an upper place at table, because he has visibly yielded to me the *seat of honour*; the *posteriority* is clearly *his*, and the *priority* consequently *mine*. Some have contracted an awkward habit of *tergiversation* by frequent endeavours to avoid their creditors; others practise *tergiversation* from their *aversion* to *duns* — when they see a *dun*, they'll turn and run — and with many, *tergiversation* is a practical prank, for it is in their estimation an excellent joke, when they see a bailiff, *par pari referre*, that is, to turn the *tail*, and give *leg-bail*. In this they act like the Parthian heroes, and conquer by flight. Thus it seems that when a man shows himself *behind*, it is an indication that he is in *arrear*. I assign none of these as the reasons why the Cardinal exhibited his *posteriors*, and am at a loss to account for the practice. I am sure he does not turn his *back* for want of *front*, for in point of *front* he will turn his *back* on no man. I mean not to disparage him; for, considering the whole of his character, I think, *Sir reverence* is his due; and as Bishop Gibson, for his superior skill in the department of ecclesiastical law, was honoured with the appellation of *Dr. Codex*, so we have good reason to distinguish this gentleman by the title of *Dr. Podex*.

I remain yours very sincerely,

THOS. WILSON.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker,
Holme, Blackburn.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Holme, March 1st 1806.

My dear Sir: Accept my best thanks for your kind letter and £16 enclosed, the surplus of which above £14 14s. I will take care to apply to Mr. Thacker's relief. I have by this post acknowledged the receipt of £5 from Mr. G. Peele on the same account.

Your visit to Liverpool will, I doubt not, have had a favourable effect on your health and spirits; the gout will have operated in the same direction, and I trust that you have laid in a sufficient quantum of strength for the toils and confinement of the next half year.

I understood that some of the Reviews had been sufficiently civil to *The History of Craven*; if the Monthly gentry are otherwise, unless they are guilty of some very gross misrepresentation, I have determined to treat them with silent contempt.

I am now meditating a new Work, but of such magnitude and importance, that I fear you will seriously advise me to consider

————— quid ferre recusent

Quid valeant humeri.

In short, it is no less than "A History of the Roman Empire connected with that of the Christian Church," upon a new plan. For this, however, I have large materials; the first fifteen years of my residence here after leaving college, were principally devoted to the study of the Greek and Latin Historians of this period, together with select works of the Fathers.

The great objection is the fame and splendour of Mr. Gibbon's History. This, however, will be acknowledged in its utmost extent, and the Work will be given to the public merely as one which the pious may read without a sigh, and the modest without a blush, neither of which can be said to be the case with respect to that great but depraved and mischievous performance.

It will require, I think, the unremitting attention of ten years, which at forty-seven, or indeed at any age, it would be presumptuous for a man to promise himself with any certainty; but with me to be employed is to be happy, and if I die in the harness, I

shall at least have the satisfaction of dying innocently and perhaps usefully employed.

I shall be glad to have your opinion of this bold plan, — perhaps you may feel inclined to give it a harsher name.

I remain, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

T. D. WHITAKER.

P.S. I waited *for* Mr. Dawson's Herald¹ twelve months. As to waiting *upon* him, I considered and do consider people of his profession as the *livæ et calones* of the antiquarian camp.

Reverend Thomas Wilson,

Clitheroe, Blackburn.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Holme, June 29, 1806.

My dear Sir: Last night I received a requisition to write an epitaph for Dr. Paley. As it is likely to be bolted through some fine sieves, I send you the foregoing,² which I have struck out at

¹ The pedigree of Dawson of Bolton Hall appeared in the *History of Craven*, but its vulnerable parts are clearly not attributable to Dr. Whitaker.

² Gulielmo Paley S.T.P.

Archidiacono Carliolensi.

Philosophiæ Christianæ primordia vixdum *juventutem* egressus docuit Cantabrigiæ; ubi magnâ totius Academiæ gratiâ florebat, instituendæ *juventuti* operam et prope ipsum impendens, homo in paucis gnavus, acer, διδακτικός.

Idem ruri degens prælectiones Academicas auctiores et castigatiores prælo mandavit, curiæ, foro, reipublicæ uti haud vano animi præceperat auguris profuturas.

Mox autem, Epistolis Divi Pauli et Actis Apostolorum miro ingenii acumine inter se conlatis, argumento inexpugnabili fidem mutuo conciliavit.

Scripsit etiam de "Evidentiis" Evangelii librum; quod ad rem subjectam attinet è multis quanquam perdoctis unus; ingenio autem, elegantia, locorum uberum delectu, summus immo prope solus.

Tandem vero, inclinatâ ætate et morbo diuturno fere confectus, integro tamen animi vigore, invictâ constantiâ, de Opificio Dei egregie commentatus est, eâ in parte, Raii, Derhami, et absit dicto invidia, ipsius Lactantii non æmulus sed magister.

Hæc omnia, sententiarum vi atque gravitate, clausularum aculeis, eloquio novo et plane suo, salium denique et leporum festivo quodam condimento, ita temperavit, ut à Paleii scriptis nemo instructor, nemo certe commotior non surrexerit.

an heat, earnestly requesting that you will examine it critically and give me your severest censures. You will perhaps observe a few peculiarities of construction which belong to the inscriptive style. It has been copied by my son, who has a fairer hand than my own. I am, dear Sir, in great haste,

Sincerely yours,

T. D. WHITAKER.

P.S. It is to be sent to the Bishop of Elphin.¹
Rev. Thomas Wilson, Clitheroe,
near Blackburn.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, September 15th 1806.

Dear Sir: I hope you will not put an unfavourable construction upon my silence, nor attribute it to want of kindness or any abatement of regard. The truth is, I could not send you so good an account of myself as either you would wish to receive, or I desired to give. After the conclusion of the vacation I experienced a considerable change in my health, though no great diminution of animal spirits: these I kept up, and found them of more use, as a stimulus, than any other *spirits* could have proved, without even the exception of *ether*. My complaint was a violent palpitation of the heart, attended, when in bed, with a suspension of the pulse, and a sinking into a state of partial insensibility, which were to me very alarming. Dr. St. Clare was, by some means, informed

Sciunt autem posteri fuisse Paleio corpus procerum, vultum subnigrum, oculos coruscos et animum referentes, sermonem lepidum ac sine diceriis facietum, artis denique halienticæ non sine valetudinis dispendio, studium atque peritiam.

Vixit annos LXII. menses — dies —

Veremuthæ Episcopi

Obiit — — MDCCCIV.

Et in hac ecclesiâ cathedrali quam vivus unice dilexerat, beatam expectat
Resurrectionem.

¹ John Law D.D. eldest son of Edmund Bishop of Carlisle the friend and patron of Paley, was born in 1745, consecrated Bishop of Clonfert 1782, translated to Killala 1787, and to Elphin 1795, where he died in 1810 s.p.

of my situation, and kindly offered his assistance. I consequently took a ride to Preston to state my case to him in person, and he gave me a prescription, by following which I have received much benefit. The principal ingredients in the composition were chalybeate, digitalis, ether and other tonics; and I have, at present, so much iron in my constitution, that I think myself sufficiently hardened to stand the winter; nay, I conceive if I was to stand near the mariner's compass, I should occasion a variation of the needle, and make some degree of confusion on board a vessel, in which I might chance to be a passenger.

On leaving Liverpool I passed two very pleasant days at Manchester, in company with Drs. Holme¹ and Bardsley,² and from them I picked up some characteristic anecdotes of the celebrated and pedantic Dr. Parr,³ the friend of Priestley. From Manchester I proceeded to Mr. Yates's, but he was gone to Blackpool before my letter reached Springside; I consequently paid a visit to his son Edmund,⁴ at Chamber Hall, where I was received with much polite attention and hospitality. I continued there four days, and was sent home in his carriage in very capital style. This his father charged him to do in a letter which he wrote the day after he received mine at Blackpool; and added that at Christmas, when I can fix my time for a visit to him, he will fetch me himself from Clitheroe. This is a very kind and gratifying trait of attention and respect from a

¹ Edward Holme Esq. M.D., the first President of the CHETHAM SOCIETY, died at his house in King Street, Manchester, in 1848. In the Fifth Report of the Society his services to literature are gratefully acknowledged; although, like Bayle, a *helluo librorum*, he does not appear amongst the editors of the Chetham series.

² James L. Bardsley Esq. M.D. died at the house of his friend W. D. L. Shadwell Esq. at Fairlight in Sussex in 1850, æt. 86.

³ Dr. Parr's pursuits as a scholar, his tastes as a politician, and probably his latitudinarian views as a theologian, induced him in 1806 to write the English inscription on Priestley's monument erected in the Unitarian Chapel, Birmingham.

⁴ He was son of William Yates of Springside, and was a partner in the great commercial house of Sir Robert Peel Bart. who married his sister. He quitted Chamber Hall and settled at Tring Park, co. Middlesex, but died at Fairlawn in Kent with his daughter Eliza, widow of the Rev. — Park of Ince Hall near Frodsham (son of Mr. Justice Alan Park). All his sons died before him.

person with whom I have so slight an acquaintance. I have also spent a couple of days with the High Sheriff¹ previous to his going to the assizes; and I am sure you will be glad to be informed that his health and spirits are greatly improved, and give him every reason to expect that his constitution will master his complaint. I have also been at Croston at the imperious request of Sir James Gardiner, to keep his birthday on the 2nd of this month. There I saw, once more, the elect lady and her sister, with all the gentry of the neighbourhood. Turtle, venison, the music of the steeple, an excellent band of performers, fireworks, and dancing, were the order of the day and night. I enjoyed the festivity for two days. Since that, on Tuesday last, I paid my annual visit to the learned Dr. Whitaker, where I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Coulthurst² of Halifax, and spent two days with much satisfaction. And now let me tell you that I shall have great pleasure in seeing you here on the 22nd, the day of rehearsal. Your bed is in order. Sir James will be here, and his uncle Tom Whalley, if, on examination, I find him qualified. Mr. Parker too will attend, but not on the day of rehearsal, as he has a previous engagement at Waddow for the 22nd. Muster and enlist as many as you can of veterans and recruits. Mr. Moss I hope will not fail. Harry Wiglesworth I fear is at Buxton. We have had relays of company at Browns-holme, and I was generally one of the throng. With kindest respects and best wishes to both Mrs. S's, Sarah, &c.,

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

T. WILSON.

Samuel Staniforth Esq.,
Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

¹ Le Gendre Piers Starkie of Huntroyd Esq.

² Rev. Henry William Coulthurst of St. John's College, Cambridge, second Wrangler, B.A. 1775, M.A. 1778, elected Fellow and Tutor of Sidney and B.D. 1785, D.D. 1791. In 1790 he was presented by the Crown to the Vicarage of Halifax, and died suddenly at Heath near Wakefield whilst on a visit to his friend John Smyth Esq. M.P., December 18th 1817, in his 65th year.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, December 4th, 1806.

My dear Sir: As I presume the electioneering tumult has subsided in your borough, you will have time to peruse this letter with coolness.

I have not seen our friend Cross, nor heard *from* him since the school meeting; but I have heard a good deal *of him*. His speech at the nomination of candidates at Preston has done him infinite credit, increased his popularity to a still higher degree, and given the people an exalted idea of his rhetorical powers. Mr. Shuttleworth also distinguished himself very much; and such was the impression made upon the body of electors, that they would find no great difficulty in securing a *return* for the borough, should the impression continue till another election takes place. I have had no account of the eloquence displayed at Liverpool, but suppose that the business could not be contested so long without some specimens, especially as the two Generals have been in the habit of rising in the House of Commons, and Mr. Roscoe is neither without practice nor parts.

Speechifying seems to have prevailed to an unusual degree in many parts of the country; but the most indefatigable orators were Sir Francis Burdett and Mr. Paul, whose effusions I read regularly, but with an abhorrence of their principles, and not without regret that so much of the old leaven remains in the breasts of the multitude, which evidently appeared from the rapturous applause bestowed upon their inflammatory harangues. Sheridan's conduct pleased me much, it was manly; and the powers of oratory were never better displayed, than in the happy manner he adopted of addressing the mob, and extorting approbation and good humour even from his enemies; they laughed in spite of their teeth.

Poor Richardson!¹ He lived but a few days after you left us.

¹ Martin Richardson of Clitheroe Castle Esq., twenty-four years Steward of the Honor of Clitheroe, ob. October 3rd 1806, in his 65th year. Mr. Wilson wrote his monumental inscription, and took the trouble of getting it engraven on a plate of brass in Liverpool and fixing it in Clitheroe Church.

I have lost a very good neighbour and a very good friend. Mr. W. Carr is his successor, and the appointment is agreeable to the wishes of us all. Colonel Wright and his lady are going to spend part of the winter in London; Mr. Parker, I believe, is in Cheshire with his cousin, Sir John Leicester, but returns to Bromholme in a few days. Where Sir James Gardiner is I cannot tell; but he is not yet married.

I met, the other day, with a complimentary epigram on a lady who had a *blood-shot eye*, which pleased me very much; and as it may please Mrs. Staniforth and yourself, I shall insert it. The lady to whom it was addressed felt uneasy, and, ashamed of such a diminution of her beauty, took some pains to apologize:

O! let it be said that your eye is all *red*,
 Dear Chloe! pray be not so moody;
 For if so many die by the darts of that eye,
 No wonder the *weapon* is *bloody*.⁽¹⁾

With compliments and best wishes to yourself, Mrs. Staniforth, and the lady of Broad Green, not forgetting Sally,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Miss Nowell is at Marshfield.

THOS. WILSON.

Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Holme, December 17th, 1807.

Dear Sir: I am extremely obliged by your friendly intimation with respect to the Bishop of Chester, who seems to have been disposed to a conclusion that the omission complained of was imputable to me. I wish he had done me the justice to think such an instance of neglect impossible.

¹ Jo. Clowes, when I told him that Mrs. Richardson was ill of her eyes, said it was just they should suffer for the murders they have committed. March 3rd, 1724.—Dr. Byrom's *Remains*, vol i. part i. p. 70, Chetham Society.

The truth is that I supposed at the time when the sermon¹ was published that he must needs be in town, and directed Hatchard to send a copy to his house near St. Paul's. However, I have written to his Lordship to explain the mistake, and shall by this post write to Mr. Starkie to request that he will take the trouble of addressing another copy to the Bishop at Chester.

It is certainly a compliment that he thinks it worth while to express any thing like ill humour on such a subject. I am, however, much more gratified by the kind and friendly expressions you are pleased to make use of on the occasion.

I have had a considerable loss in my literary concerns, — upwards of eighty pages of the copy of my new edition of *Craven* having been unaccountably mislaid (though I verily believe by Nichols's own people), so that I have to rummage up all the authorities I can find (for some of these too have disappeared), in order to recover the additional matter which had been written on the margins of the lost copy. It happened, however, very fortunately, in the least interesting part of the work, for Ribblesdale is nearly printed off, and Wharfedale not begun.

I am indebted to our friend Dr. Barton for a nearer approximation to perfect health than I ever again expected to enjoy. The symptoms frequently return, though always weaker than at first, but plenteous libations of his solution of natron uniformly remove them. I presume from your silence that you are free from your old complaint.

The new year is so near that I may be allowed to conclude with the old wish *multos et felices*.

I am, dear Sir,
Your sincerely and truly obliged,

T. D. WHITAKER.

Inter nos, I am sorry to tell you that Mr. — has lately offered

¹ A sermon preached at the consecration of the chapel of Salesbury in Lancashire, September 8th 1807 — text, *S. Luke* vii. 5 — a sermon which no man can read without becoming wiser and better, and in which many of the social evils of our day are combated with singular force and ability and their only remedy indicated.

the manor of — to my relation Mr. Nowell¹ for £40,000, but the situation was much too cold for Hindoo constitutions. I believe this is no secret, but I do not wish it should be known to have come through me to you.

Mrs. W., my son, &c., desire me to make their best compliments.

Rev. Mr. Wilson,
Clitheroe, near Blackburn.

Rev. Thomas Starkie to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Blackburn, December 21, 1807.

Dear Sir: I feel much obliged by the concern you express for the indisposition under which I have been labouring during the last four months. Its attacks, though troublesome, have not been severe; they have, however, confined me to the house for the last five weeks, but, thank God! not to my bed. My greatest suffering was from the application of a blister, which for some time occasioned the strangury. I can move about the house, but am unable to walk upright, or to encounter the severe blasts of winter out of doors.

I entirely agree with you in the sentiments and feelings which our friend W.[hitaker]'s excellent consecration sermon has produced; it is certainly a very masterly performance.

Though it may not be in my power to attend the election of a new Master, yet I trust it will be in my power to receive you at the Vicarage, where you will find a bed on the evening preceding the day of election.

My Lord Ellenborough of his own mere motion has been pleased to say to the Master of St. John's² and [to] Mr. Wood³ the Tutor,

¹ Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Nowell, afterwards of Underley Park, co. Westmoreland, who had spent many years with his regiment in Bengal. His mother was the aunt of Dr. Whitaker.

² Rev. William Craven, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1753, M.A. 1756, B.D. 1763, D.D. 1789, Professor of Arabic 1770, Master of St. John's College 1789, Vice-Chancellor of the University 1790. He ob. 1815, æt. 84.

³ Rev. James Wood, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1782, M.A.

that he was glad to hear that my son had adopted his profession, and that he should be happy to show him any attention in his power. This compliment to my son's talents and industry will be gratifying to you as well as to myself.

Believe me, dear Sir, whether in health or in sickness,

Yours most truly,

Rev. T. Wilson,

T. STARKIE.¹

Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, January 5th, 1809.

My dear Sir: The embargo still continues upon me, without the orders of Council. The *gout* will not *go out*, my *feet* defeat the designs of my *head*, my *arrangements* are *deranged*, my *appointments* *disappointed*, and the *snow*, which is falling here in abundance, prevents me from bidding you *all hail!* at Liverpool. I am sitting here, moping and musing like a hermit in his cell, and watching those odious, increasing *drifts* which have set all my purposes *adrift*. I call in the assistance of books, and have more *pages* about me than the proudest monarch in the world; but vain comforters are they all, without society; to accumulate knowledge without the opportunity of communicating a particle of it, is like

1785, B.D. 1793, D.D. 1815, Master of St. John's College 1815, Vice-Chancellor of the University 1816. He died Dean of Ely in 1839, and his name will long be deservedly venerated both in Cambridge and in his native county — Lancashire.

¹ The Rev. Thomas Starkie, eldest son of Mr. James Starkie of Twiston near Clitheroe, was born in 1750, afterwards Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College, Cambridge, senior Wrangler and senior Smith's Prizeman, B.A. 1771, M.A. 1774. His learned friends, contemporaries and opponents were Law and Lawrence, the former afterwards Lord Ellenborough, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and the latter Sir Soulden Lawrence Knt., Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1776 he was one of the Taxors and Moderators of the University, and in 1780 was presented by Archbishop Cornwallis to the Vicarage of Blackburn, which he only vacated by death, August 26th 1818, æt. 68. He was also Mr. Wilson's successor in the Incumbency of Downham. He was a man of unostentatious and patient habits, and discharged his pastoral duties with great conscientiousness and unvarying courtesy.

bottling moonshine, or lighting a lamp in a solitary vault. Numbers of ideas, some of them ludicrous enough, and new, shoot across my pericranium, like momentary meteors through a dark atmosphere, shine but to vanish, and are kindled but to be, in the very instant, extinguished. If I could be conveyed by a wish, that wish would immediately set me down in the circle of my friends, and when once set down, though an invalid, I should soon sympathise with the cheerful society; for though I feel an abatement of bodily health and strength, yet my spirits are the same, when excited by the presence of those I like, and kindled by the collisions of unrestrained conversation. I may reiterate the poor starling's note, "I cannot get out!" But, in a few days, I will try to escape from my cage and wing the free air amongst the birds of liberty. When you will see me I cannot tell; but perhaps I shall break out of jail in the beginning of next week, and rest upon my perch at Preston for two days, and then take wing for the borough of Liverpool

I shall conclude this desultory epistle with every good wish which the present festival and the opening year suggest; may it be a happy new year to yourself and family and the good old lady of Broad Green!

I am, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth Esq.

T. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Rev. Dr. Whitaker.

No date (about 1809.)

Dear Sir: I was greatly mortified when I heard on Sunday last, from Col. Hargreaves, that you had our friends on Thursday the 10th, and mortified still more when he told me that my absence was in some degree regretted by the party. I should most assuredly have contributed all in my power to the rational conviviality of the symposium had I known the day. If the time fixed for the meeting was mentioned to me at Blackburn, *εν τῇ ὑδατί*

εγραφετο; for on ransacking my memory I find not the least trace of any appointment; and if any written communication was made to me, it never was received. But whatever might be the cause, the company, by my absence, have suffered no great loss, but my loss is great indeed, for *perdidi diem*; and I can, with grave sincerity, confess that whenever the time approaches for visiting Holme, I cannot help calling to mind the exclamation of Horace:

“O Holme! quando ego te aspiciam? quandoque licebit
Nunc veterum libris, nunc somno et inertibus horis
Ducere sollicitæ jucunda obliviam vitæ?” &c.

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I am, my dear Sir,
Yours most sincerely,
THOS. WILSON.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to William Cross Esq.

Clitheroe, March 20th, 1809.

Dear Sir: I beg you will not, from my long silence, infer that I am unmindful of your kindness to me, or of my promise which I made when I took my leave of you at your own door. The fact is, that a return of my indisposition prevented me from giving you so good an account of myself as either *I* could have wished to communicate, or *you* to receive. I think, however, that I am gaining ground, though slowly, and expect that the vernal gales, which renovate all things, will infuse new vigour into my constitution. I feel myself languid, and can scarce think I am at home. Conversation is wanting, which always gives great play to my thoughts, and creates an elasticity of spirits which operates upon the bodily system and invigorates the whole frame. All my neighbours are particularly attentive to me, and exhibit a sympathising concern, as too well conjecturing *that something* which corrodes and preys upon my mind, *nisi sincerum est vas, quodcumque infundis ascendit*. I was very much pleased with the entertainment

given by Mr. Assheton on his son's coming of age,¹ and Mr. Assheton was gratified extremely, and much affected, by the honest attachment, the cheerful festivity, the sincere good wishes, and hearty congratulations of all the tenantry of the neighbourhood. Everything went off extremely well, and nothing of riotous excess appeared upon the occasion. The Rector of Slaidburn has been much indisposed by a vertiginous complaint, but, by the attention and skill of Mr. Sutcliffe ["that great thwacking doctor who married poor little sister Jenny"] he is a good deal recovered. I long to see you and our worthy friend Staniforth here, and hope your visit will not be long deferred. It would give me much pleasure to hear that your uncle's health is restored, and that your aunt Assheton continues well, to whom I beg to present my compliments.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS WILSON.

William Cross Esq.

Winckley Street, Preston.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Holme, March 23, 1809.

Dear Sir: Accept my sincere thanks for your most kind and friendly congratulations on my attainment of an object which

¹ William, son and heir of William Assheton of Downham and Cuerdale Esq. (see p. 165, *Note 1*, ante) born in 1788, married in 1816 Frances Annabella (she ob. 1835) daughter and coheirss of the Honourable William Cockayne, brother of the last Viscount Cullen of Rushton Hall in the county of Northampton, and is a Deputy Lieutenant and in the commission of the peace for the county of Lancaster. He has issue two sons. "When you see Captain Assheton, who I understand is quartered in Liverpool, have the goodness to present my compliments to him, and tell him that the bells at Downham and Clitheroe were almost burst by ringing on his birthday, and that his health was drunk with the enthusiasm of three times three three times repeated by all the tenantry of the neighbourhood. Both the hotels of Downham were crowded with company, and I partook of the good cheer and festivity of the day, although I have been crawling about in a languid, uncomfortable state, and have found my chief pleasure in the performance of my duties in the school, for I have a set of fine, tractable, and intelligent lads. — *Letter, March 20th, 1809, to Mr. Staniforth.*

has long been very near my heart, and which after all will in a pecuniary view be, for some time at least, the gaining of a loss.¹ For the vicarage house is in a sad dilapidated state, and I fear that I am in hands from which little can be wrung without litigation. Then there is a tenant in the house who, after having given voluntary notice to quit at Easter, now threatens to hold over, when all the materials are prepared for the repairs.

I feel a pleasure and a pride in improving and adorning so favourite a spot, where I mean to reside as much, especially in winter, as I conveniently can, though I scarcely know how I can *pack* my large family within the walls. For this intention, however, I have several reasons. And first, a sense of duty — that I may be found as much as possible at my post. Secondly, that I may be nearer my friends than at Holme, though at Whalley I must receive them *presso lare*, which I trust will be overlooked if the receiver be also *dulcis amicis*. A third, and I hope a still inferior motive, is my health, as I am persuaded that the mild air of Whalley in early spring will better agree with my lungs than the harsh unkindly blasts that sweep over our eastern moors.

Whalley also is a more central situation than this for my clerical excursion through the parish; for it is my wish to preach annually in every church and chapel within it, and you, I trust, will have no objection to accept my services in course at Clitheroe and Downham. Will you do me the favour to mention the same subject to Mr. Clarke with respect to Whitewell? As I am a wretched horseman, I propose to economise distances by taking two neighbouring churches every Sunday. I hope this plan will neither be unuseful nor disagreeable to the parish. It will at least bring me acquainted with the parishioners, and *noscere exercitus*,

¹ It is worthy of notice that in his catalogue of the Vicars of Whalley the Doctor has recorded of himself that *he* vacated the benefice "*per mort.*"; and such was his deep affection for the parish which was the subject of the earliest and best of his topographical labours, that he had often been heard to say, insignificant as the living then was in its emoluments (about £120 per annum), that the offer of higher preferment should not induce him to relinquish Whalley, as it was the settled purpose of his mind to die its Vicar.

nosci exercitui may be applied to a parish minister as well as an officer. Dr. Coulthurst¹ and Mr. Haddon² have found great satisfaction in pursuing this plan in their respective parishes.

I mean to be at Whalley from the Saturday before Easter to the Tuesday following, but greatly fear that I shall not have leisure to ride over to Clitheroe, as I expect to divide my time not quite so pleasantly between Mr. Baldwin's³ brother and executor (the attorney) and my refractory tenant. The time I have heretofore spent at that delightful place, without care or business or anything but the indulgence of a vagrant imagination, feels in the recollection like a dream, and I now experience that selfishness and anxiety and discord are weeds that will spring up within the precincts of an abbey as well as amidst the filth of manufactories. I find too that there is a strong party formed against me, or rather for Mr. Noble, among the lower orders in the town, and I cannot greatly blame him if a consciousness of this preference should afford him some consolation under his disappointment.⁴ He has, I believe, done his duty well and conscientiously, and I sincerely respect him for it. It must be my endeavour to remove the unfavourable impression by labouring, not exactly to tread in his steps, which perhaps have leaned a little to popularity, but to walk *recto talo* in my own.

I am, dear Sir,

Ever yours sincerely,

Rev. Thomas Wilson,

T. D. WHITAKER.

Clitheroe, near Blackburn.

¹ See p. 190, *Note 2*, ante.

² The Vicar of Leeds, of whom Dr. Whitaker has given a sketch, with his usual descriptive power, in the *Loidis et Elmete*.

³ Thomas Baldwin LL.B. died January 11th 1809, having been Vicar of Whalley from 1772. He was also Vicar and Patron of Leyland, where he died.

⁴ On the death of Dr. Whitaker, the Rev. Richard Noble, the former Curate, and then Incumbent of Church-Kirk, was presented to the Vicarage of Whalley. He was succeeded at his death, in 1839, by the Rev. Robert Nowell Whitaker M.A. (son of the Doctor) the present worthy Vicar.

Rev. Dr. Whitaker to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Holme, April 12, 1809.

Dear Sir: As Mr. Smith is actually dead, and the faithful, unremitted services of more than thirty years in the school to which the patronage of his living is annexed give you a strong claim upon the succession, I hope I may have to wish you joy of it; though I understood at Whalley that you would be opposed by the family interest of an old and intimate friend—in other words, that Mr. John Parker¹ was likely to be your competitor.

Indeed I am not sure whether, circumstanced as you are at present, the living of Almonbury would be of any material service to you. But of this you are the best and indeed the only judge.

The purport however of this, besides a wish to draw from you another letter and to learn that you are in good health and spirits, is earnestly to request that, if you are elected to Almonbury, the present curate, Mr. Walter Smith, may be continued in his situation. I have known him for more than ten years; he is a very worthy man, and has discharged the duties of the Church and parish in a most exemplary manner. He has a family, and resides in the vicarage-house, from which it is his earnest request that he may not be removed but by a resident incumbent. To make assurance doubly sure, I have preferred the same petition to Mr. Parker.

Everything remains in *statu quo* at Whalley. I fear little will be wrung from Mr. N. R. Baldwin, excepting insolence and illiberality, which I am required to accept instead of dilapidations, without a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court. Indeed I must say the gentleman is wise in attempting to satisfy my demands with such [coin], as he seems to possess a very [exchequer] of it, and a mint within himself for the production of it, which works with great facility.

¹ John Fleming Parker, third son of John Parker of Browsholme Esq. M.P., was born in 1782, educated by Mr. Wilson, afterwards of Brasenose College, Oxford, B.A. 1804, M.A. 1807, married in 1817 his cousin Catherine, daughter of Thomas first Baron Ribblesdale, and succeeded Mr. Smith in the vicarage of Almondbury and also in the perpetual curacy of Waddington.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the reception I have met with at Whalley from Lady Gardiner and all the respectable part of the parishioners, but it is now evident that the Greens and their dependants, a set of wretched and filthy cottagers under my eye and nose at the vicarage, will do everything in their power to make my residence there uncomfortable.

I am, dear Sir,

Ever yours most sincerely,

Rev. Mr. Wilson, Clitheroe,
near Blackburn.

T. D. WHITAKER.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, February 4th, 1810.

Dear Sir: Here I am again, sitting by the penurious twilight formed by the twinkling glimmer of an ill-formed mould candle made by Tommy Hyde, and appearing to have as much *Hyde* as *tallow* in its composition. This is a *wicked* fraud, though I bear it with tolerable patience; but had it been practised upon some choleric persons of my acquaintance, there would have been such a *blaze* of indignation that all the *fat* would have been in the *fire* in a moment. Yet, faint and feeble as the light is, it will enable me to inform you that the mail coach conveyed me in perfect safety to Preston, where I slept soundly at the Red Lion, though the Black Bull looked very sulky on the occasion. On Tuesday morning I called upon the Gorsts, and found them all in good plight. I then chatted half an hour with the St. Clares. My next visit was to Mrs. Mary Assheton, from whom I bespoke an early dinner, and ordered a porcupine. This order was punctually obeyed, and a pint of port was dispatched in due time. At half-past five in the evening I embarked in the Blackburn mail, where I met with two conversible fellow travellers — one of whom, I suspect, was an Evangelical preacher. He was however a well-read sensible man, not puffed up with Pharisaical pride, nor exhibiting Methodistical stiffness, nor sectarian cant. When we came to explain our ideas, we found there was a *verbal* but very little *real*

difference in our theological sentiments. The carriage ran upon the nail, and so did conversation; and we found ourselves at Blackburn before we were aware. I went immediately to the Vicar's, with whom I took up my abode till Saturday morning, January 27th; from thence I travelled post to Clitheroe, where I found all things as I left them.

Have the goodness to inform Mrs. Staniforth that I experienced great and immediate benefit from the lozenges. I took the lozenges, and they took my hoarseness. Which had the better bargain?

I saw Mr. Bolton yesterday, who is very well, and found the bed at Bolton Hall so comfortable that he had slept soundly the whole night after his arrival. He said you intended to have sent me a note or memorandum by him. As he brought none, I began to conjecture that you might possibly wish me to give you Mr. Hall's address, in order to send him Whitaker's *Craven*. His address is — The Rev. Mr. Hall, Risley, near Derby.

I forgot to tell you that as the broom was out in Winckley Street, on account of our friend Cross's absence, Mrs. Mary Assheton and Miss Dale were busy making preparations for a ball, which they intended to give on Monday the 29th of January, before his return. But my candle is so dim and my fire so nearly out that I can gossip no more; so,

God bless you all. Amen.

Samuel Staniforth Esq.,
Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

THOS. WILSON.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, July 25th, 1810.

My dear Sir: Mr. Cross and myself had the pleasure of receiving a favourable account of you, first from Mr. Whalley Master, who had seen you on the Sunday after my departure, and secondly from Mr. Robert Greaves's letter addressed to our friend at Red-Scar.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that I have got fairly rid

of the gout, both on the *right* and *left*, and that the *rebels* who stirred up an intestine tumult have been reduced to order by the timely interposition of General Forshaw, who made them *evacuate* their strong position; but I am sorry and ashamed that I forgot to remunerate that able officer, or even reimburse him the expenses of his *ammunition*. I treated *him* as Peter Pindar says the King treated Whitbread, I *remembered* to *forget* him. I also forgot to take with me my gout stockings, as the serpent, who has stripped off his old skin, carelessly leaves the *slough* behind him. The stockings, however, may continue where they are, as a pledge for my return when the cold of winter has set in and rendered them serviceable. I attended Preston races two days,¹ and dined once at the ordinary: we had good sport at the races, but very indifferent speeches at the dinner. Dr. St. Clare furnished me with bed and board on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; on Saturday I went with Mr. Cross to his rural mansion, and found an excellent pasture till Friday morning following, when Mr. Tempest took me in his barouche to dinner at Stonyhurst, and to my own home in the evening.

With compliments and best wishes to you all, I am, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, March 30th, 1811.

Dear Sir:

This part of the country has sustained a considerable shock from the stagnation of trade and the failures which have, of late,

¹ Not, it may be hoped, so much for the sake of the races, as to meet society; for, writing to his friend on the 28th July, 1807, he said, "I met with our worthy friend Will X. in his usual good spirits, and finished the week under his hospitable roof with more true enjoyment than the idle fellows who entered into all the dissipations of the sod and the turf." It appeared that Mr. Wilson had preferred the company of his old pupil and ever valued friend of Redscar to that of Colonel and Mrs. Bolton, who had urged him to accompany them to Buxton.

been so frequent. The families of weavers, from want of economy in better times, and from want of employment, or from being employed at reduced wages, impose upon the parishes an overwhelming load of taxes for their relief; and what increases the evil is, that the persons who have been employed as weavers are incapable of other business; they cannot handle a spade or a pickaxe, and become a dead weight upon the townships to which they belong. The cloud that hangs over this country receives every day a darker tinge, and I cannot consider what the final result may be without alarm. Peace is impossible, and a protracted war will be ruinous. In case of an invasion, what a scene of slaughter, devastation, and conflagration must ensue! Nor do I think it unlikely that the tyrant will make the attempt, either here or in Ireland; in the latter island things seem working in his favour as he could wish. But this is an unpleasant anticipation, and I shall drop the subject.

Clitheroe is in the same state it was in when I was with you. We have few deaths, few marriages, and few christenings. The lime trade is the only one that flourishes, and our only commerce is betwixt the white rock and the black rock.¹

I wish to be informed how the lady of your house, the lady of Broad Green, and the bairns are. Write soon.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Rodney Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Thomas Lister Parker Esq.

Clitheroe, April 13th, 1811.

My dear Sir: As Lent is the season of confession, I therefore confess to you that I have been guilty of the sin of omission, in not writing to you as I was in duty bound to have done, first by promise, and secondly as a debt due to you, in consequence of

¹ i.e. lime and coal.

your having written to me last; by which means it appears that "I owe you one." This confession, I hope, will be followed by forgiveness on your part and by amendment on mine. But how very differently are we circumstanced with respect to the facilities for maintaining a correspondence? You are in the *world*, and, like the mocking bird, have only to repeat a few of the various things which you hear to make out an entertaining and interesting epistle; I am in the *desert*, and, like the poor spider in a lonely house, must spin from my own bowels all that I produce for the amusement of my friends; or the comparison might be more proper if I should say that I am in the same predicament as the poor Israelites in Egypt, and obliged to make bricks without straw. But that I may not draw upon the low fund of my own invention, I shall endeavour to state to you the *tiny* circumstances of a *tiny* town. To begin, then, Mrs. Brocklehurst and Mrs. Craven have taken their departure from hence, like birds of passage, and migrated to a deserted nest at Redivales near Bury. I should have thought it more suitable for the *former* to have gone to *marry* than to have gone to *Bury*; but she seems to have adopted the maxim of Solomon, who had tried almost all things that came in his way: "Better is the house of mourning than the house of feasting." I am sorry, however, for their departure. We have lately had here a lecturer in philosophy and chemistry, a very intelligent, modest, and scientific man. He has proved to us that action and reaction are equal, showed that friction produces fire, that two cold substances, by their operation upon each other, may generate heat; he exhibited to us the different *gases*, instructed us in the art of giving ourselves *new airs*, and pointed out a chemical method of *producing water*. He likewise taught us how to live without eating, to get merrily and triumphantly drunk without drinking, and how to die in ecstasy of pleasure, as if we "died of a rose in aromatic bliss." Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, and Mr. Peel and his son the Oxonian, were part of the audience. Let us hear, then, no more of Dr. Davy and the Royal Institution; we rival

them at least in having a Mr. *Nield* and the Clitheroe School Room. I found much benefit from my visit to Liverpool, and came home with renovated strength, like a giant refreshed with wine. My constitutional strength is improved and continues in a state of improvement; but, to keep the old earthly tabernacle in tolerable repair, and prevent dilapidations, costs me two bottles of madeira per week: madeira is my *eau medicinale*, and is certainly more valuable and less violent in its operation than the *eau medicinale d'Husson*, though it has had the recommendation of so many noblemen and gentlemen of the first character. Our friend Major Hulton meant to have tried the *nostrum* in his last fit of the gout, but his wife and sister remonstrated against it; and he himself informed me that his good opinion of the medicine has abated ever since he heard that it rescued *Dr. Collins* from the jaws of death. I found our friend Sam at Liverpool very much recovered, and this recovery he attributed to wearing woollen stockings; I told him it was no great wonder, if, by wearing *wool*, his complaint, on the principle of *assimilation*, should become *worsted*. Dr. Whitaker is now at Whalley, for the first time since his resurrection, giving *ghostly* lectures to his flock, and preparing them for that state from which he so recently and so *easily* returned; for according to the poet—*Facilis est descensus Averni, sed revocare gradum, hic labor, hoc opus est*.

Mr. Assheton I suppose you have seen; he left *us* some time ago. He is an Idler, a Rambler, a Spectator, an Adventurer, a Connoisseur, and a Vagrant. He strayed out of my *fold*, and I shall give a handsome reward to any person who will *impound* him, or send him to me, as one of my *lost sheep*.¹ Miss Leach, I doubt not, you have seen, and Miss Harriet Shawe. I beg you will pre-

¹ "Mr. Assheton has just returned from a long ramble. Mr. Parker sent me a little *squib*, which Mr. Assheton let off at *me*, in reply to the abuse I had lavished upon *him* in the enclosed letter, which Mr. Parker sends to you. Why you are to have the perusal of it he does not say. It is a mere bagatelle. It has, however, entertained two or three lords; but if such things can amuse them, Lord help them!"—*Letter to Mr. Staniforth*, June 23rd 1811.

sent my respectful compliments to Col. and Mrs. Wright and the strangers within their gates, and am, dear, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Lister Parker Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

No. 3, Bolton Row, London.

Miss Curren, I understand, listens not to the solicitations of Mr. Heber, on account of the disparity of age; Horace may be quoted upon him as a reason, viz. : —

Læta quòd *Curren* hederâ virenti
Gaudeat, pullâ magis atque myrto,
Aridas frondes hyemis sodali
Dedicet *Hebro*.¹

Mr. *Tempest's* family, I suppose, are at Bath, which may account for the *calm* weather we have had this spring. Mr. Stephen Tempest is at Edinburgh, upon a visit to his relation BOREAS, where he may learn an useful lesson, how to *raise the wind*. The mention of Boreas reminds me to inquire after Mr. *North*, whether or no he is in the *south*!

*Thomas Starkie*² Esq. to Rev. Thomas Wilson.

Inner Temple, November 20th, 1811.

Dear Sir: I had intended to confer with you, when in the country, on the propriety of erecting some memorial of your late pupil and our common friend Greene.

¹ Læta quòd pubes hederâ virenti
Gaudeat, pullâ magis atque myrto,
Aridas frondes hyemis sodali
Dedicet *Hebro*. — *Ode 25, to Lydia*.

Heber is a river of Thrace, which the ancients considered the habitation of winter. Richard Heber Esq. M.P. was the last male representative of the ancient houses of Marton in Craven and of Hodnet in Shropshire. He died unmarried in 1833, when his library, one of the most extensive and rare collections of books in Europe, was sold. When the Hon. Colonel Robert Clive returned from India, it was reported that he admired Miss ——— and on Mr. Wilson being asked what the lady would say, replied, "NAY-BOB, I cannot refuse!" Like Mr. Heber, Colonel Clive died unmarried.

² Thomas Starkie, elder son of the Rev. Thomas Starkie M.A. Vicar of Blackburn, a man, like Gay, "of manners gentle and affections mild," (see p. 195, ante) was born

Backhouse and Cowburn unite with me in wishing to pay some tribute of this nature to the memory of a friend and schoolfellow whose affection we shared for many years and whose loss we deeply lament. It is our wish to commemorate the premature

April 12th 1782, and was placed with Mr. Wilson in 1796. His father, on the 18th of August in that year, writing to Mr. Wilson, observed, "A few weeks ago I sent him to Macclesfield School, where he was so much disgusted by the conversation and manners of his class fellows, and so ill treated by them because he would not join them in their bad practices, that I have been under the necessity of removing him. His health too has suffered from too many of them being crowded into the same sleeping room. I wish him to be in your own house and under your own eye, and to have a private room for the purpose of writing his exercises and getting his tasks."

"The spring time of our years

Is soon dishonour'd and defil'd in most

By budding ills, that ask a prudent hand

To check them," —

and the remedy being promptly applied in this instance, the result was as satisfactory to the parent as it proved in the end to be salutary to the son. And on the 3rd of August Mr. Starkie again writes — "Thomas desires me to tell you that his memory is not a very good one. I suppose he is afraid of your setting him too much to get by heart at a time. My opinion is that his memory is a pretty good one, and that it has not hitherto been sufficiently exercised. I therefore wish you to improve and strengthen it by degrees, setting him something to be got by heart every night. As he still thinks of trade, I would have him devote an hour *at least* every day to writing and accounts. I have allowed him to receive 6d. a week from you for pocket money, if you would not think it too much trouble to be his bursar. Not doubting but you will, from time to time, give him good advice, and attend to his morals as well as his literary attainments, I commend him to your care." The pupil distinguished himself by his close application to study, and Mr. Wilson delighted to cultivate talents of no ordinary description. The shy, quiet, and highly sensitive boy found his "private room" at Mr. Edleston's (for Mr. Wilson's house was full of scholars and he could not at first accommodate him) all that he desired, and the bad memory, by judicious treatment, was soon strengthened. He became a scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1803, and, by a singular coincidence, was, like his father, Senior Wrangler and Senior Smith's Prizeman. He had as his opponents, Hoare, the Second Wrangler, afterwards Chancellor's Medallist, Junior Smith's Prizeman, and Archdeacon of Winchester; Parke, afterwards Baron of the Exchequer, and lately created Lord Wensleydale; Davys, Bishop of Peterborough, the preceptor of the Queen; and other eminent scholars. In 1806 Mr. Starkie proceeded M.A. and was elected Foundation Fellow and Tutor of St. Catharine Hall. He was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and in 1823 was appointed Downing Professor of the Laws of England. He was afterwards Q.C. and University Counsel. He married at

death of this truly amiable person by a marble tablet and inscription; and since our intimacy with him was formed at Clitheroe, it would be particularly gratifying to have this little mark of our regard erected in the church of that place. We trust to your kindness for your opinion as to the propriety of this measure; and should it appear unobjectionable, shall petition you to suggest a Latin inscription suitable to the occasion.¹ You are already in such complete possession of all the circumstances of the case, so well acquainted with the merits of the deceased and the feelings of his friends, that it would be superfluous to make any additional remark.

Whalley, September 30th 1812, Lucy, daughter of the Rev. T. D. Whitaker LL.D. Vicar of Whalley, by whom he had issue two daughters, living at his death in 1849. Notwithstanding his taste for light literature, especially works of fiction, he published a treatise on the Law of Slander, Libel, &c., 8vo, 1813; a treatise on Criminal Pleadings, &c., 2 vols. 8vo, 1814; and other learned works connected with his profession.

¹ Hoc Marmor

servet memoriam viri reverendi Antonii Tristram Greene,
qui Liverpooliæ, in agro Lancastriensi, natus,
animam ibi, phthisi confectus, efflavit,
ibique sepultus est A.D. MDCCCXI.

et ætatis suæ XXVIII.

Scholæ Clitheroensis nuper alumnus fuerat,
et studiis literarum deditus,

non summis tantum labris fontem pierium attigit,
sed affatim hausit :

inde Cantabrigiam, in Collegium Sti. Johannis, se conferens,
liberali eruditione excultus evasit.

Ingenuo pudore, animo candidissimo atque mitissimo,
pietate erga parentes, caritate erga sorores,
et benevolentia erga omnes, illustris erat.

Condiscipuli ejus, mortem, heu ! præmaturam, lugentes,
et memores temporis sub eodem præceptore felicitati acti,
hoc monumentum, quasi cenotaphium,
impensis suis extrui curaverunt.

Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus
tam chari capitis !

Requiescat in pace, lætusque resurgat.

I hope at your convenience to be favoured with your sentiments on this subject, and with earnest wishes for your health and happiness, remain, dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully and affectionately,

Rev. Mr. Wilson,

THOS. STARKIE.

Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Samuel Staniforth Esq.

Clitheroe, April 17th 1812.

My dear Sir: I received your packet of politics, and communicated the contents to the worshipful In-Bailiff, who concurs in the proposal of forwarding a petition to the Honourable House of Commons. The consequence we possess, as a corporation, is not much; but we can boast of antiquity; and though our petition may not add to the weight, it will add to the number of applications, and show that we have imbibed the prevailing sentiment, respecting the monopoly of the trade to the East Indies. It will also give us an opportunity of communicating with our representatives, and making them of *some use* to us. I do not expect much assistance from them, on the subject, as they are generally found to *side* and *coincide* with the minister; yet, on this occasion, they might claim the liberty of acting on their own judgment, as the question is not a party question, but one that has for its object the prosperity of our commerce, which is the *source* from which our *resources* flow, and furnishes the very sinews of our national consequence and strength in war.

I deferred sending Bishop Taylor on account of the weather; but have despatched him this morning by a *lime cart*, and he will make his primary visitation at Blackburn, in the simple style of a primitive prelate. At Blackburn he will be accommodated with a *royal* coach and four, for Preston; from whence he will proceed to Colquit-street with similar state, and pay a long visit to Isaac Littledale Esq.¹; who I doubt not will treat him with all that deference and attention which are due to the episcopal character.

¹ Brother of Mrs. Staniforth.

I am glad to hear you are *all* well, and beg you will make my compliments and present my best wishes to every individual of your family. My health and spirits remain in excellent order and repair.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Samuel Staniforth, Esq.

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to Mrs. Staniforth.

Clitheroe, January 19th, 1813.

Dear Madam: I thank you for the information which your letter conveyed with respect to Mr. Staniforth's detention in London, as it enables me to lay out my time and shape my course for the remaining part of my holidays, in such a manner as may best contribute both to amusement, pleasure, and health; but of this be assured, that in no place do I find myself more comfortable, or more at home, than in Ranelagh Street. My rheumatism relaxes a good deal, and affects me only when I put myself in motion on rising from my chair; so that I am by no means crippled, but in a state similar to that of a spavined horse, which recovers its speed by a little exercise.

I hope to discharge my arrears at Midsummer. With compliments and good wishes to Mrs. Staniforth, Mr. and Mrs. Bolton, Miss Littledale, and the *younglings*,

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

Mrs. Staniforth,

THOS. WILSON.

Ranelagh Street, Liverpool.

Rev. Thomas Wilson to John Aspinall Esq.¹

Clitheroe, February 2nd, 1813.

My dear Sir: I waited upon Mrs. Haworth and endeavoured to quiet her apprehensions with respect to that *important* deed which

¹ Nephew and heir at law of Mr. Sergeant Aspinall of Standen Hall near Clitheroe,

she thought she had rashly parted with. The idea of her folly and imprudence haunted, like a troubled spirit, her daily thoughts and her nightly dreams. Mr. Shuttleworth and Mr. Carr endeavoured, but in vain, to administer comfort and to remove her fears, and Mrs. Bawdwen was frequently sent for and consulted upon the *melancholy* subject; but her mind was so *possessed* by the *foul fiend*, that nothing could dissipate her anxiety, which, when in solitude, returned with increased force. Thus little minds, which have no *real* grievances to annoy them, conjure up imaginary evils to destroy their peace and render the sum of misery which *fancy* creates equal to that of real distress; so that the balances between the different classes of the human race are nearly in equipoise. I believe, however, that Mrs. H.'s tranquillity is in a great measure restored, though she supposes that to deal with an *attorney* is full as bad and dangerous as to deal with the *Devil*.

I am glad to find in your welcome letter so good an account of

who died March 1st 1784, æt. 68, and on whose monument in Clitheroe Church is the following inscription by Mr. Wilson:—

Mildness and candour dwelt within his mind,
 He lov'd the good and felt for all mankind;
 Tho' Vice still found him a determin'd foe,
 Yet Pity wept ere Justice gave the blow;
 When Poverty complain'd, by Pride oppress'd,
 Her cries he heard, her injuries redrest;
 'Mongst other cares Religion found a part,
 And claim'd a secret interest in his heart;
 He own'd its solemn truths, and fill'd with awe,
 Let Christian Meekness smooth the front of Law,
 And 'midst the clamours of forensic war,
 His mind would muse on Heaven's impartial bar:
 At Heaven's last judgment may his actions plead,
 And meet that mercy which the best will need;
 Nor wealth nor art can there evade the laws,
 Where God is Judge, and Truth shall plead the cause.
 Mortal attend! and let this friendly stone
 Record his death and warn thee of thy own;
 Let not his virtues with his ashes rest,
 Transplant them hence and wear them in thy breast.

yourself, of Mrs. Aspinall, of your children, and of the comforts of your present residence. Your mind will experience many rational amusements and much interesting variety, which the country cannot afford. The House of Commons would be to me a perpetual lounge at this particular time, when matters of such vital importance will be the subjects of debate, and when every heart must be awfully penetrated and exhilarated by the wonderful succession of events which have so lately taken place in the North of Europe—events of such a nature as to change the political hemisphere from a scene of darkness and dismay to the cheering sunshine of hope and the joyful expectation of returning peace. All the vassal powers of the Continent, who have felt the degrading influence and the galling yoke of the Corsican tyrant, will surely avail themselves of the opportunity *now* afforded them and vindicate themselves into liberty. The sun of France appears to be going down and setting in a dark cloud tinged with blood, and disaffection and rebellion *seem* to be rising to close the horrid scene. Yet, such are the vicissitudes of war, that to be sanguine in the prediction and anticipation of consequences would be presumption after all that we have seen in our times—I will therefore quit the subject.

You would to a certainty hear of the death of Mr. Hargreaves.¹ He is said to have died *very rich*, beyond expectation, and his nephew *James*,² I am informed, is considered as the elder, but what difference is made I have not learned. James, I understand, is to live with his aunt, and is now in the commission of the peace. I

¹ The Rev. John Hargreaves of Brasenose College Oxon., B.A. 1765, M.A. 1768, in Deacon's orders only, acquired Bank Hall by his first marriage, when very young, with Mrs. Blacktune, a rich widow; and after her death he married secondly Mary, daughter of Mr. — Lord of Broadclough in Rossendale. He was an impartial and useful magistrate; and dying at Bank Hall (which he had rebuilt) December 23rd 1812, s.p., was buried at Burnley. His widow died in 1818.

² James Hargreaves of Bank Hall Esq., Major of the local militia, married Ann, daughter of Thomas Hippon Vavasour of Rochdale Esq. and died about 1831, s.p., when the estate passed to his younger brother John.

met the Colonel¹ last week at Colonel Clayton's,² along with Mr. T. Parker³ and his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Wigglesworth.⁴

I assure myself that you would rejoice to hear that Mr. Bootle⁵ was returned for our borough, a man well qualified to represent any borough, any city, or any county in the kingdom. His constituents and the neighbouring gentlemen were highly pleased with him, and we spent a pleasant day on the occasion. As he has declared himself a candidate for the county at any ensuing election, I doubt not but his present situation will contribute to his success, as he will become known in his true character to a great many freeholders who otherwise would have had no acquaintance with him.

I did not in Christmas pay my usual visit to my friend Mr Staniforth, now mayor of Liverpool; for at the time fixed he was unexpectedly called away to London. Mr. Horrox⁶ and your humble servant had the mortification to be *confined for three long days in the house of correction at Preston* at the last quarter sessions, which was owing to no offence that we had been guilty of, but to the number of appeals which had been respited from the

¹ John Hargreaves of Ormerod House Esq. a Deputy Lieutenant and in the commission of the peace for the county of Lancaster, and Lieutenant Colonel of the local militia, born in 1775, and married in 1802 Charlotte Ann, sole daughter and heiress of Laurence Ormerod of Ormerod Esq. He was High Sheriff of the county in 1825, and dying April 5th 1834, æt. 59, was buried at Holme, leaving two daughters his coheiresses, his only son having died at Oxford in 1824, æt. 20. Colonel Hargreaves's portrait was engraved from a painting by Lonsdale — *Lanc. MSS.* vol. ix. p. 258.

² Thomas Clayton of Carr Hall Esq. was born May 16th 1755, married 11th December 1788 Susan, daughter of Robert Nuttall of Bury Esq. She died 23rd December 1789, and he on the 12th February 1835. He was Sheriff of Lancashire in 1808, and succeeding the Earl of Wilton as Colonel of the Royal Lancashire Volunteers, continued to command the regiment until it was disbanded in 1802. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of the County and fifty-eight years in the commission of the peace. His portrait was engraved. — *Lanc. MSS.* vol. ix. p. 259.

³ Of Alkincoats near Colne.

⁴ Rector of Slaidburn. See p. 174, *Note 1 ante*.

⁵ Edward Bootle Esq. who in 1814 assumed the surname of Wilbraham, and was created Baron Skelmersdale in 1828. He died in 1853, æt. 82.

⁶ Samuel Horrocks Esq. M.P. for the borough of Preston.

prior sessions on account of the absence of counsel, who were *all* at that time engaged at the different elections, which occasioned us to work double tides to get quit of the accumulation of business which had been reserved for us.

All our neighbours are well except myself; my complaint is a slight return of jaundice from the *want of gout*. Please to present my respectful compliments to the Colonel and Mrs. Wright, and accept the same with every good wish to *you* and *yours*, from,

Dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

THOS. WILSON.

John Aspinall Esq.

No. 2, East Place, Lambeth.

MISCELLANEOUS PIECES.

MISCELLANEOUS PIECES.

TAILOR VERSUS SMITH.¹

GENTLEMEN ! — A difference has unfortunately taken place betwixt the tailor and the smith, concerning the antiquity and importance of their respective trades ; which, if not speedily settled, may have fatal consequences. The matter is, therefore, by the advice of friends, and with the consent of the parties, now brought to issue, and referred to your decision. I am of counsel for the tailor ; and as it is a point of honour and of high concernment, I must beg your most serious attention to the arguments I shall produce on behalf of my client.

As to the tailor's antiquity, I conceive it is indisputable, for it may be traced back to the commencement of the world itself, since we are told that our first parents sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves clothing. On this point, therefore, I shall no longer insist ; for *every* trade must give him the precedency.

The importance of the trade, I conceive, may be proved with equal ease ; for no man is ignorant that the tailor makes our clothes ; and one of the seven wise men has issued this as an aphorism — *εἰματα ἀνῆρ*, that is, *dress makes the man*. To confirm the truth of this assertion, I ask you if you would not *startle* at the sight of a naked savage, and *bow* with respect at the presence of a well dressed man ? There are, indeed, numbers of beings

¹ These trivial pieces are selected from a bundle of school-boy opponencies and recitations in English and Latin prose, and are printed, not because they are the best, but because they are the shortest specimens.

who have no other *identical existence* than what the tailor bestows upon them; strip them of this distinction, and you have quite unmade them; they have no more relation to their dressed selves, than they have to the great Mogul, and are as insignificant in society as Punch when deprived of his *moving* wires and hung upon a peg; they are, in short, like the cinnamon tree, their bark is of more value than their trunks; or like spectres, and their clothes are the shape they take to appear and walk in. This makes some philosophers imagine that the Prometheus so famed in heathen mythology was really a tailor, who so metamorphosed mankind by his art, that they appeared a new species of beings. Let not the tailor, then, be considered as a despicable animal, but as an useful and important member of society. Though it is vulgarly asserted that nine tailors make but one man, yet you may pick up nine men out of ten who would not make a complete tailor.

But to annihilate this reflection upon the tailor's manhood, let me inform you that the proverb took its origin from this — that nine tailors are required *to make*, that is, to *dress one man*, the dress consisting of nine distinct parts, which, were it necessary, I could easily enumerate.

Let us now consider the qualifications which are requisite for this profession. The tailor must be a perfect Proteus, he must change shapes as often as the moon and still find something new; he must have a quick eye to steal, at one glance, the cut of a sleeve, the pattern of a flap, or the form of a trimming; he must be able not only to cut for the handsome and well shaped, but to bestow a good shape where nature has denied it. The hump back, the wry shoulder, must be buried in flannel and wadding, and the coat must hang *dégagé* though put upon a post.

As a further proof of the respectability of the tailor, I may add that he is constantly furnished with a goose ready for roasting, and has a better supply of cabbage than any of his neighbours; that no person is so frequently allowed to put his hands into the pockets of his customers; that when he takes home his work he

seldom goes a sleeveless errand ; that he lives by faith as well as works, for no man is more in the habit of trusting ; and that he has the power not only to cut off, but to cast into hell. That my client is a peaceable man is clear from his healing the breeches of the neighbourhood and making up suits ; yet his power is very great, for he can set on foot as *hot a press* as the minister ; his vigilance is clear from this, that he has as many eyes about him as Argus ; and to judge of his courage, you need only be told that his chief business and delight is in cutting and slashing, and basting and pinking on all proper occasions ; and there is no man whose jacket he would not undertake to trim and lace genteelly ; in short, he guards the front and covers the rear ; and his industry is indisputable, for I defy any man to say that he is listless. I have now made out my case, and whatever the defendant may say, I hope will be cautiously received, because he is addicted to many *vices*, has been guilty of *forgery*, and is very much given to *puffing* ; but my client cares not a button for the defendant ; and in this as in every other *suit* he takes in hand, is determined to go thorough stitch, and entertains no doubt, Gentlemen, of your favourable verdict.

Gentlemen ! — I am, in this important cause, of counsel for the smith, who is defendant, and cannot but wish that a matter of so much moment had been committed to some person of more skill and experience ; yet, as the merits are with us, I despair not of success. My learned friend, indeed, has displayed much ingenuity in urging his client's claims to higher antiquity and greater respectability ; but what is ingenuity, before a well informed jury, when put in competition with stubborn facts and solid arguments ? — facts and arguments, which, without further preface, I shall now proceed to state.

The antiquity of tailors has been traced to the Fall, because our first parents sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves aprons.

All this I grant; but I shall ask in my turn, could they sew without needles? It is absurd to suppose it. My client's trade, therefore, was necessary to enable them to take a single stitch. The smith's precedency is then fully established. But we can go still higher for our origin. The first human pair were placed in Paradise before the Fall, and their business was to cultivate their garden and to dress it; but what sorry gardeners they must have been without hoes, spades, and pruning knives! The occupation of my client was therefore necessary, and must have been practised before the Fall. Here, then, his priority is demonstrated. Sin and death and tailors came into the world together; and if Adam had not fallen, the cross-legged race had never existed.

Much has been said of the tailor's importance from the general love of dress. I grant all men love and admire clothes; but at the same time they scorn and despise him that makes them, just as some princes love the treason but hate the traitor. The Jews and most other nations in all great calamities used to rend their garments; and why did they do this? It was to testify that they defied the tailor and all his works. My learned friend has taken some pains to prove the manhood of his client against an ancient and universal proverb; but observe now how one simple syllogism shall put him to the rout; for it is said that "no man putteth a piece of new cloth upon an old garment." The argument, therefore, will run thus: — "He that putteth a piece of new cloth upon an old garment is *no man*; but the tailor does put a piece of new cloth upon an old garment; *ergo*, the tailor is *NO MAN*." If the tailor then be no man, you will ask me *what* he is? This question is soon answered when you are told that he has a hell of his own over which he presides. In honour of the tailor it has been said that Prometheus was of that profession; though it is well known that he was a smith, that he invented fire, and taught the use of metals to mankind. My friend has boasted of his client's faith and works; but after all we are assured from ocular demonstration that he is but a *seaming* saint; his vigilance is inferred from the number of eyes he has about him, but of all the number it is

certain that he has but two that can see; and as to his wisdom, you may judge of *that* when you consider that he has a goose for his emblem. The goose also suits his character from the size of her bill, and because tailors, like the goose, are best when sitting or when placed upon the table. As to the hero of the shears making free with the pockets of his neighbours, it is very true, for he seldom makes a pocket without picking it first. His courage has also been extolled, but we all know him to be a turncoat; indeed I admit that he sheds much human blood at second hand, and slays his thousands and tens of thousands of heavy, phlegmatic, and unresisting enemies, and indeed he might assume for his motto, "They had lice in all their quarters," if he were not better suited with this, "A remnant shall be saved."

The character of my client, you would observe, has been most grossly attacked; but the aspersions are soon wiped off. He is charged with forgery, but his forgeries are of the most beneficial kind; and as to bills, his forgery never exceeded that of a hedge bill. As to my client's vices, they are public benefits, and the more he is addicted to them, the more he serves himself and the community; besides, they are of that tenacious nature, that if they had once taken possession even of the tailor, he could not easily have got rid of them. As to the puffing with which the defendant is charged, it is necessary for the support of his business, and he always puffs as well as blows for the service of his friends. I might now observe in favour of my client, that his trade is the main support of the arts, the manufactures, the agriculture, and the commerce of this land; that his influence amongst the ladies is very considerable, for Venus married one of the trade, and chose him perhaps because he was sparkish; and no man is more courageous in meddling with cold iron or even hot, nor does any person deal heavier blows. As to his circumstances, I can truly say that few can vie with him in weight of metal; his absolute power is shown by his ruling with a rod of iron; and his learning is proved by the ready use which he makes of a great variety of tongs.

IGNORANCE VERSUS INTELLECT.

THE greatest philosophers and the most learned men have always been the first to own their ignorance, and confess the narrowness of the human understanding. And indeed it is a truth that obtrudes itself upon our minds with a greater or less degree of force, according to the extent of our enquiries. For what is there in the whole round of nature that we fully comprehend? If the earth on which we live is the object of our study, how little do we know of its internal substance! Many strata can never be examined at all, and as to those which we can have access to, they abound with substances which the ablest naturalists have never fully comprehended. What do we know of the formation of mines and minerals? or who can account for the production of earths and rocks? If we pass to the vegetable world and those parts of nature which are most obvious to the human eye, we are surrounded with wonders and bewildered in mysterious labyrinths. If I throw a seed into the ground, tell me why it rises again to shoot into a stem, why it unfolds itself into branches, why it puts forth leaves peculiar to its species, and why this tree produces a plum and that a pear? Tell me how the roots convey nourishment from the earth, how they make choice of what is proper, and by what power they exclude what would be injurious to health? All silent? How ignorant is man! So far are we from having a perfect knowledge of plants, that we have not yet a complete catalogue of them, nor have the ablest botanists been able to enumerate all the distinct species. The animal world is full of miracles. The nature, structure, and uses of the parts of animals have never been clearly understood. The best philosophers and the ablest chemists have never told us by what principle the blood circulates, nor by what curious process vegetables and food are changed to flesh and blood and bones. If we ask the cause why their soft juices harden into

cartilage, and cartilage into bones of muscular motion, or if we investigate the nature of the animal spirits, silence is the best reply. Physic itself is but the science of conjecture; the disciples of *Æsculapius* know few specifics; their best success is in doing no harm: and if once they assist nature, they retard her motions. Water has not yet been perfectly analysed; we know not whether it is naturally a fluid or a solid, or on what its fluidity depends; and the saltness of the sea has not yet been satisfactorily accounted for. The very air we breathe, the element in which we live, is equally unknown; we know some of its common effects, but its nature is a mystery. Late enquiries have discovered in it properties, principles, and affinities which it had never before been suspected to contain. As to light, we are perfectly in the dark concerning it, and the boldest philosopher will not decisively declare whether it is diffused through nature or proceeds immediately from the sun; whether it be an element or a modification of other bodies. Of electricity and magnetism we know little except their effects; the causes of the phenomena are not yet discovered. And whether fire is an element or only a quality of bodies is yet a dispute. If we pass on to the heavenly bodies we are lost and bewildered. Of the planets, when we have said how large they are and how far distant from us, we have told all we know, and more than we know with certainty; and as to the fixed stars, whose distances are immense, the most illiterate person is as wise as the astronomer. The little that we have of history is full of uncertainty, and even that of our own country not to be implicitly relied upon. The dead languages are with difficulty learned, and at best but imperfectly known; and as to the living languages, few can be perfectly acquired, and fewer still will be of real advantage. Even our own souls, and the connection of soul and body, are difficulties that have never yet been solved. How then should we explain the nature of God? Both nature and the God of nature are incomprehensible. Thus all that we learn by the different sciences is to know how little can be known on different subjects and that man's intellectual powers are of limited extent.

But our duty to God and our duty to man are plain and distinct. They are suggested by the mind itself, and, what is more important and satisfactory, they are clearly laid down in divine revelation, and the performance of them is easy to all, whether they are versed in the sciences or not.

It would ill become us to suffer such a humiliating account of the human intellect to pass in this place without reply. And I must say it but ill becomes the person from whom it came, for he depreciates what he *affects* at least to admire, and he vilifies what he professes himself ardently in pursuit of. My sentiments I confess are widely different from his; for I cannot contemplate the extent of the human understanding without astonishment; I cannot consider how much of the ample field of science has been cultivated without feeling a secret pride and enjoying an inward triumph. That an animal whose most perfect dimensions exceed not six feet should penetrate the depths of the earth, explore the properties of mines and minerals, examine their several affinities and relations to other substances, and analyse them into their constituent parts, is truly astonishing. But his knowledge is no less wonderful in the vegetable world. He can give names to most of the plants which adorn the surface of the earth, from the tall cedars of Libanus down to the hyssop upon the wall. He knows not only the plants of his own country, but his botanical researches have even traversed the world. He can not only discriminate one from another, but can state almost their minutest differences, and give a detail of their various qualities and virtues. As to the animal world in general, he can describe the different kinds and species, their particular habits, external forms, and even their internal structure and conformation. Of the air he breathes he knows the qualities, properties and effects; and applies this knowledge in various ways to contribute to his advantage, and excite admiration. The nature of water he so far understands as to be able to produce from it the

most astonishing effects. He can convert it to a strongly elastic steam, and in this form apply it to a variety of useful purposes, besides the benefits resulting from hydraulic engines and the application of hydrostatic principles. The experiments on the nature of light, the separation of its primitive and distinct colours, with the useful discovery of the laws of optics, and the invention of optical instruments need only be mentioned to be admired. The useful purposes to which fire is applied show that though its essence is not understood, we are not unacquainted with its properties and effects. The salutary purposes for which electricity has been subservient will prove our knowledge concerning its nature to be very considerable. The important uses of the magnet in navigation are sufficient evidence that we are not strangers to its most valuable properties. If we contemplate the sublime discovery of the cause of the flux and reflux of the sea, we need no stronger argument of the strength of the human intellect. But if we quit the earth and ascend to the skies, the knowledge of what passes there, acquired by man, is astonishing indeed. He can predict the eclipses of the sun and moon, the transits and occultations of the planets, with the minutest exactness. He knows when to expect their different phases, knows their relations to one another, and their combined influences. He knows the laws of their motions, measures their densities, diameters and distances, and is so well acquainted with their courses that he can determine their places for any moment. The invention of the globe, the orrery, and planetariums is a convincing proof of his wonderful knowledge on these subjects. His skill in mechanics is displayed from the common crane to the most complex pieces of machinery, and in the works applied in trading countries to shorten and ameliorate labour. His knowledge of history embraces not only recent transactions, but all the principal events from the creation to the present time. And our numerous systems of Divinity and Morality will convince any man that on these subjects the human comprehension is unbounded, although truth is one and indivisible. His knowledge of language is various and extensive, as the variety of books with which our

libraries are filled bear ample testimony. But to crown all, I shall beg leave to mention the arts of writing and printing as wonderful efforts of ingenuity, and to which the gentleman who spoke last might with propriety have confessed his obligations. Dixi.

*The Rev. Thomas Wilson to his Wife, whilst on a visit at
Marshfield, near Settle.*

October 29th, 1778.

THE departure, this day, of the pretty *Miss Hall*,
Affords me occasion for sending this scrawl ;
For believe me, dear rib, I am made of such mettle,
That though absent in *body*, my *mind* is at Settle.
With *you* too I know very well how it fares,
How you give me a part of your thoughts and your cares ;
I know that, though happy in seeing Miss Lister,¹
Whilst you cut and contrive and desire to assist her,
Amidst all your bustle your mind has an itching
To steal in amongst us and look o'er your kitchen ;
But your daughter's return'd, and now darts a keen eye
O'er the cellars below and the chambers on high ;
And this I must tell you in favour of *Jenny*,
She yet makes her markets with part of your guinea.
This too you must know, that, myself to regale,
I've broach'd the first barrel of Preston-brew'd ale,
Which pleases me much, for the liquor, by *Jingo*,
Is finer than amber, right *orthodox stingo* ;
'Tis excellent stuff, nay, in short, it is neetar,
And would not discredit a tithe-taking Rector ;
I mean to ask *Howarth* to help me to rack it,
To see how he'll chew it, and mumble, and smaeek it !

¹ Miss Lister, who was on the point of being married to John Parker Esq. See p. 16, *Note*.

The maltster has called and has brought in his bill,
Which I honestly paid, and have money left still.
The draft of John Taylor, the nabob Esquire,
Is reserved to be paid as occasions require.

The ladies at Bashall yet make their abode ;
My Lord's not arrived, but is *still* on the road ;
So that still they rely on the care of Squire *Ramage*
To free them from insult and screen them from damage.
'Mongst the servants, he acts as the squire of Lord Bellamont;¹
When he sees aught amiss, 'tis his duty to *tell 'em on't*.

The Sergeant's² laid up in a fit of the gout,
And so hamper'd with pain that he fairly *screams* out ;
It began with strong symptoms of cholic and gravel,
Which so much unhing'd him he scarcely could travel ;
But, racked with keen twinges, his torment now such is,
That he shrieks whilst he walks, though supported on crutches.

Yestere'en went Miss Nowell,³ dressed out like an heiress,
To meet a large party at Madam's the Mayoress.
She mimics at home still, as well as she's able,
The importance and state of Mamma at the table !
We all live in clover, have very nice picking
Of beef and of mutton, roast geese and boiled chicken.
Miles now from before us the china has ta'en,
And spits on the table to rub out a stain !
Your son and your daughter, and mare at the manger,
Your man servant, maid servants, cattle and stranger,
Are all in good plight, though quite tir'd of my reign,
And they secretly wish for their mistress again.

Miss Hall, we're inform'd, and the news flies about,
Is tir'd of the siege, and resolv'd to give out ;
The garrison mutinies, nor will defend her,
But drives her *forthwith* to a formal surrender,

¹ Mr. Beaumont ?

² Mr. Sergeant Aspinall of Standen Hall.

³ Mrs. Wilson's daughter.

Compels her to yield to the conqueror's arms
Her person, her fortune, her name and her charms.
May kind heaven shield them from squabbles and bickerings,
And bless the sweet pair with a brood of young Pickerings!

Present my respects to the lovely Cleora,¹
Whose blushes, I warrant, would rival Aurora;
My compliments, too, to the gentle young Damon,
With a wish that his ardour for ever may flame on;
I hope that my presage will not be mistaken,
Which sends them to Dunmow next year for the *bacon*.

In return for this favour from me and the Muse,
I hope you'll transmit us a packet of news.

No more I've to add, so no further will trouble you,
Concluding in rhyme, Ma'am, your faithful

T. W.

¹ Mr. Wilson's poetical name for Miss Lister.

FINIS.

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BY THE REV. JOHN BOOKER, M.A., F.S.A.,
Curate of *Prestwich*.

N.B.—By permission of the Author, the further issue of this volume is limited to Members of the Chetham Society, in order to afford them an opportunity of completing the series of Chapelry Histories of Manchester Parish. It is requested that early application be made to Mr. Charles Simms, Printer, Pall Mall, Manchester, as but few copies remain on hand. The price charged to Members will be similar to that of the volumes of the Chetham Society.

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VOL. XLII.

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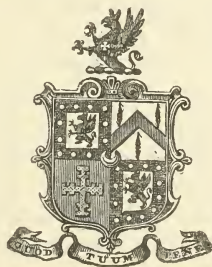
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The Fourteenth Report

OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE CHETHAM SOCIETY,

*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Society,
held on the 2nd of March, 1857.*

As the two first Publications for the last year are continuations of works referred to in previous reports, and have now been for some months in the hands of the Members, the Council deem it the less necessary to advert to them in any lengthened notice.

The first, which forms Volume XL. of the series of the Society's Publications, is Vol. II. Part I. of *Dr. Byrom's Journal and Remains*, edited by the Rev. Dr. PARKINSON, and extends from March 1736 to July 1742, when Byrom obtained the act of parliament for securing to him the copyright of his System of Shorthand. In point of amusement and historical and biographical value the present portion of this delightful work will not be found to yield to the two preceding parts; and a reference to the Accounts of the Society for the past year will show, what the Members are bound most gratefully to acknowledge, that the entire expense of this volume, like that of its predecessors, has been defrayed by the continued munificence of Miss ATHERTON.

Part II. of the *Shuttleworth Accounts*, edited by Mr. HARLAND, constituting Volume XLI. of the Chetham series, and being the second publication for the last year, concludes the Accounts, and contains two valuable Appendices, the first giving a copious and very interesting account of the Shuttleworth family and a detailed description of Gaw-

thorpe, and the second a collection from various authorities of the prices of labour, commodities and provisions in England during the period embraced by the Shuttleworth Accounts, which forms a very useful addition and supplement to them. The Appendices are succeeded by a most elaborate series of Notes, alphabetically arranged and referring to every head of importance disclosed in the Accounts, and of which in the present Part the commencement only, as far as *Br*, is given. It is however quite sufficient to show what an extraordinary amount of various information this work will comprise, when completed, and when only the extent of historical illustration, which its able and laborious editor will have brought together, can be fully felt and fairly appreciated. To this part of the Shuttleworth Accounts a portrait of Lawrence Shuttleworth, the builder of Gawthorpe, from an original painting now remaining there, is prefixed.

The third volume for the year just completed, and Volume XLII. of the Chetham Series, is *An Historical Account of the Ancient Parochial Chapel of Didsbury and of the Chapel of Chorlton*, by the REV. JOHN BOOKER. This is very nearly ready for the binder's hand, and will form a volume of about 320 pages, with four accompanying engravings, of Didsbury Chapel in 1620; Chorlton Chapel, taken down in 1779; Hough End, the ancient seat of the Mosleys; and Reddish Hall, the ancient seat of the Reddish family. The Council are satisfied that this important addition to Mr. Booker's previous topographical labours will be received with great pleasure by the members of the Chetham Society. It is hoped that he will be induced to continue this valuable series of publications, so as to add the remaining chapelries in the parish of Manchester to those of Blakeley, Denton, Didsbury, and Chorlton, of which he has furnished so accurate and satisfactory an historical record.

The Publications in progress are —

1. *Byrom's Journal and Remains*, Vol. II. Part II.
2. *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills*. Edited by the Rev. G. J. PICCOPE.
3. *The Shuttleworth Accounts*, Part 3. Edited by J. HARLAND, Esq.
4. *Remains of the Rev. John Wilson of Clitheroe*. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, Hon. Canon of Manchester.
5. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Tracts for and against Popery published in the time of James the Second, now in the Chetham Library, incorporating the whole of Peck's Catalogue of the Tracts on that Controversy*. Edited by THOMAS JONES, Esq., Librarian to the Chetham Library.

6. *Worthington's Diary and Correspondence*, the concluding part of the second volume.

7. *Nathan Walworth's Correspondence with Peter Seddon, of Outwood, near Manchester, from 1623 to 1654.* Edited by ROBERT SCARR SOWLER, Esq.

8. *Heraldic Visitations of Lancashire.* Edited by T. DORNING HIBBERT, Esq.

9. *Collectanea Anglo-Poetica, or Bibliographical Notices of some of the rarer Poetical Volumes in the Library of a Lancashire Resident.*

*ARTHUR HENRY HEYWOOD, Treasurer, in Account with the Chetham Society,
From 1st March, 1856, to 23th February, 1857.*

DR.

CR.

	L.	S.	D.
1 Arrear of 1853-4, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
1 Collected	1	0	0
13 Arrears of 1854-5, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
13 Collected	13	0	0
190 Arrears of 1855-6, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
188 Collected	188	0	0
2 Outstanding.			
7 Subscriptions of 1856-7, accounted for last year.			
276 Collected	276	6	0
44 Life Members			
350			
Subscriptions for 1857-8 paid in advance..	10	0	0
Composition for Life Membership	20	0	0
Books supplied to Members	33	6	8
Dividend on £250.....	7	0	0
Received from Members for Postage of Books	0	7	6
Interest from the Bank.....	14	2	1
Miss Atherton, being the cost of vol. 40, Byron's Remains, vol. ii. part i.	145	15	0
Balance on hand March 1st, 1856	284	18	2
	£993	9	5

	L.	S.	D.
1856.			
Mar. 31. Hire of Room for Meeting.....	0	7	6
Apr. 30. Postages.....	2	0	0
May 22. Returned to Rev. T. F. Smith, for subscription paid in error 22 April, 1855	1	0	0
„ 30. George Simms, for binding, &c., vols. 35, 37, 38, and 39.....	80	17	0
June 16. Charles Simms and Co., for balance of printing, &c., vol. 39, and sundries	58	8	6
July 31. Ditto, balance of printing vols. 40 and 41, and sundries	171	17	4
„ „ Postages	1	0	0
Aug. 1. Advertising Meeting of 1856.....	0	7	6
„ 16. George Simms, for binding, &c., vols. 40 and 41	40	0	0
„ 21. Carriage of parcel to Chester	0	2	0
Sept. 3. Postages.....	0	5	0
Oct. 2. Rowley and Brown, for Engraving, &c., vol. 42	15	14	2
Dec. 24. Charles Simms and Co., on account of volumes in the press.....	220	0	0
„ 30. Tyler for Woodcuts, vol. 42	5	16	0
„ 31. Stamps and Postages	0	6	7
1857.			
Feb. 27. Advertising Meeting	0	4	6
	£598	6	1
Feb. 28. Balance on hand.....	395	3	4
	£993	9	5

Audited by us and found correct.

JOSEPH PEEL.

GEORGE PEEL.

B. DENNISON NAYLOR.

ARTHUR H. HEYWOOD, *Treasurer.*

LIST OF MEMBERS

FOR THE YEAR 1856—1857.

The Members, to whose names an asterisk is prefixed, have compounded for their Subscriptions.

- *Ackers, James, Prinknash Park, near Gloucester
 Agnew, Thomas, Manchester
 Ainsworth, Ralph F., M.D., Manchester
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 Aspland, Rev. R. B., Dukinfield
 Athenæum, Liverpool
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 Ayre, Thomas, Trafford Moss, Manchester
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 Barton, R. W., Springwood, near Manchester
 Barton, Samuel, Higher Broughton
 Barton, Thomas, Manchester
 Beamont, William, Warrington
 Beard, Rev. John R., D.D., Stony Knolls, near Manchester
 Beardoe, James, Manchester
 Beever, James F., Manchester
 Bell, John Gray, Manchester
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 Chichester, The Bishop of
 Chippindall, John, Lancaster
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Royle, Alan, Ardwick

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Sharp, Thomas B., Manchester
Sharp, William, Linden Hall, Lancaster
Sharp, William, 102, Piccadilly, London
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 Hall, Burnley
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 Simms, George, Manchester
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 Simpson, Rev. Samuel, M.A., Douglas, Isle of Man
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 Sowler, Thomas, Manchester
 Spafford, George, Alderley
 Spring, Herbert, Manchester
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 *Stanley, The Lord, Knowsley
 *Stanley of Alderley, The Lord
 Stanley, Walmesley, Bootle Village, Liverpool
 *Starkie, Legendre Nicholas, Huntroyde, Padiham
 Sudlow, John, Manchester

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 Tate, Wm. James, Manchester
 Tatton, Thos., Withenshaw Hall, Cheshire
 *Taylor, James, Todmorden Hall
 Taylor, John, Moreton Hall, Whalley
 Taylor, Thomas Frederick, Wigan
 Teale, Josh., Salford
 Thomson, Joseph, Manchester
 Thorley, George, Manchester
 Threlfall, Richard, Jun., Preston
 Tinker, William, London
 *Tootal, Edward, The Weaste, Pendleton
 Topham, Thomas, Chester

 Townend, Thomas, Belmont, Faversham, Kent
 Townend, John, Ditto
 Turnbull, W. B., D.D., Edinburgh
 Turner, Thomas, Manchester

 Vaughan, John, Stockport
 Vitre, Edward Denis de, M.D., Lancaster

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 *Walker, Samuel, Prospect Hill, Pendleton
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 Wanklyn, James H., Manchester
 Wanklyn, William, Manchester
 Warburton, R. E. E., Arley Hall, near Northwich
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 Ware, Titus Hibbert, Hale Barns, Altrincham
 Westhead, Joshua P. B., Lea Castle, Kidderminster
 *Westminster, The Marquis of
 Wheeler, Benjamin, Exchange Arcade, Manchester
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 Whitehead, James, M.D., Manchester
 Whitelegg, Rev. William, M.A., Hulme, near Manchester
 Wilkinson, Eason Matthew, M.D., Manchester
 Wilson, Rev. John, M.A., Meysey Hampton Rectory,
 Cricklade, Gloucestershire
 *Wilton, The Earl of, Heaton House
 Wood, William R., Singleton Lodge, Manchester
 Woodhouse, John, Bolton
 Worthington, Edward, Manchester
 Worthington, Robert, Manchester
 Wrav. Rev. Cecil Daniel, M.A., Canon of Manchester
 Wright, Rev. Henry, M.A., Mottram St. Andrew's, near
 Macclesfield
 Wroe, Frederick, Cheetham Hill, near Manchester

 Young, Sir Chas. G., Garter King of Arms, London

*The Honorary Secretary requests that any change of address may be communicated to him
or to the Treasurer.*

Publications of the Chetham Society.

FOR THE YEAR 1843-4.

VOL.

- I. Travels in Holland, the United Provinces, England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1634-1635. By Sir William Brereton, Bart. Edited by EDWARD HAWKINS, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.L.S.
- II. Tracts relating to Military Proceedings in Lancashire during the Great Civil War. Edited and Illustrated from Contemporary Documents by GEORGE ORMEROD, D.C.L., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.G.S., author of "The History of Cheshire."
- III. Chester's Triumph in Honor of her Prince, as it was performed upon St. George's Day 1610, in the foresaid Citie. Reprinted from the original edition of 1610, with an Introduction and Notes.

1844-5.

- IV. The Life of Adam Martindale, written by himself, and now first printed from the original manuscript in the British Museum. Edited by the Rev. RICHARD PARKINSON, B.D., Canon of Manchester.
- V. Lancashire Memorials of the Rebellion, 1715. By SAMUEL HIBBERT WARE M.D., F.R.S.E., &c.
- VI. Potts's Discovery of Witches in the county of Lancaster. Reprinted from the original edition of 1613; with an Introduction and Notes by JAMES CROSSLEY, Esq.

1845-6.

- VII. Iter Lancastrense, a Poem written A.D. 1636, by the Rev. Richard James. Edited by the Rev. THOMAS CORSER, M.A.
- VIII. Notitia Cestriensis, or Historical Notices of the Diocese of Chester, by Bishop Gastrell. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A. Vol. I.
- IX. The Norris Papers. Edited by THOMAS HEYWOOD, Esq., F.S.A.

1846-7.

- X. The Coucher Book or Chartulary of Whalley Abbey. Edited by W. A. HULTON, Esq. Vol. I.
- XI. The Coucher Book or Chartulary of Whalley Abbey. Edited by W. A. HULTON, Esq. Vol. II.
- XII. The Moore Rental. Edited by THOMAS HEYWOOD, Esq., F.S.A.

1847-8.

- ^{VOL.}
XIII. The Diary and Correspondence of Dr. John Worthington. Edited by JAMES CROSSLEY, Esq. Vol. I.
- XIV. The Journal of Nicholas Assheton. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.
- XV. The Holy Lyfe and History of Saynt Werburge, very frutefull for all Christen People to rede. Edited by EDWARD HAWKINS, Esq.

1848-9.

- XVI. The Coucher Book or Chartulary of Whalley Abbey. Edited by W. A. HULTON, Esq. Vol. III.
- XVII. Warrington in 1465. Edited by WILLIAM BEAMONT, Esq.
- XVIII. The Diary of the Rev. Henry Newcome, from September 30, 1661, to September 29, 1663. Edited by THOMAS HEYWOOD, Esq., F.S.A.

1849-50.

- XIX. Notitia Cestriensis, or Historical Notices of the Diocese of Chester, by Bishop Gastrell. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A. Vol. II. Part I.
- XX. The Coucher Book or Chartulary of Whalley Abbey. Edited by W. A. HULTON, Esq. Vol. IV.
- XXI. Notitia Cestriensis, or Historical Notices of the Diocese of Chester, by Bishop Gastrell. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A. Vol. II. Part II.

1850-1.

- XXII. Notitia Cestriensis, or Historical Notices of the Diocese of Chester, by Bishop Gastrell. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A. Vol. II. Part III.
- XXIII. A Golden Mirrour; conteynge certayne pithie and figurative visions prognosticating good fortune to England, &c. By Richard Robinson of Alton. Reprinted from the only known copy of the original edition of 1589 in the British Museum, with an Introduction and Notes by the Rev. THOMAS CORSER, M.A., F.S.A.
- XXIV. Chetham Miscellanies. Volume the First. Edited by WILLIAM LANGTON, Esq.: containing
 Papers connected with the affairs of Milton and his Family. Edited by J. F. MARSH, Esq.
 Epistolary Reliques of Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquaries, 1653-73. Communicated by GEORGE ORMEROD, D.C.L., F.R.S., F.S.A., and F.G.S.,
 Calendars of the Names of Families which entered their several Pedigrees in the successive Heraldic Visitations of the County Palatine

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